Dear Green: Hitomi no Ounowa

Slice of Life Slice of Bliss

Volume 3 Chapter 20

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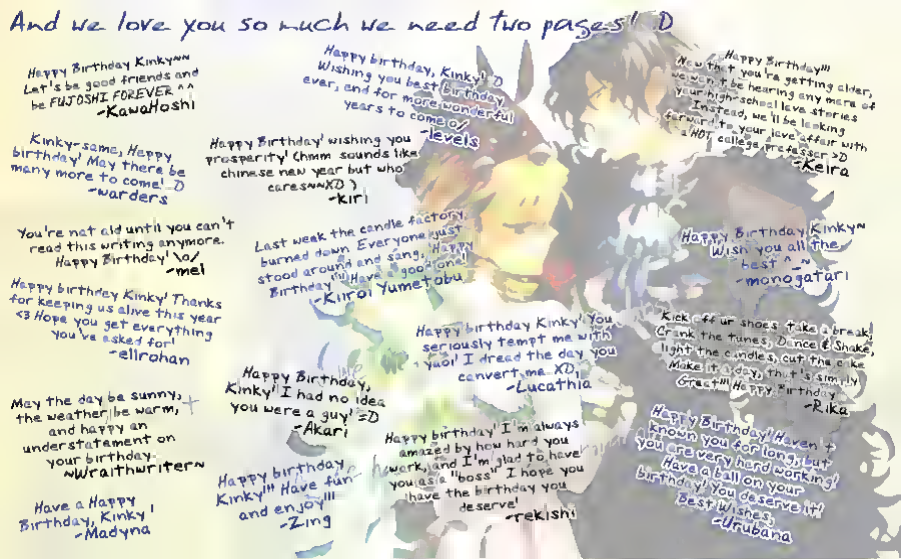
And we love you so much we need two pages! :D
Happy Birthday Kinky~~ Let's be good friends and be FUJOSHI FOREVER ^^ ~KawaHoshi
Happy birthday, Kinky! :D Wishing you best birthday ever, and for more wonderful years to come o/ ~levels
Happy Birthday!!! Now that you're getting older, we won't be hearing any more of your high-school love stories anymore. Instead, we'll be looking forward to your love affair with a HOT college professor >:D ~Keira
Happy Birthday! wishing you prosperity! Chmm sounds like chinese new year but who cares~~XD) ~kiri
Kinky~same, Happy birthday! May there be many more to come! :D ~warders
You're not old until you can't read this writing anymore. Happy Birthday! \o/ ~mel
Last week the candle factory burned down. Everyone just stood around and sang, "Happy Birthday to You! Have a good one!" ~Kitroi Yumetobu
Happy Birthday Kinky! You seriously tempt me with Yaoi! I dread the day you convert me XD; ~Lucathia
Happy Birthday Kinky~ Wish you all the best ^_^~ ~monogatari
Happy birthday Kinky! Thanks for keeping us alive this year <3 Hope you get everything you've asked for! ~ellrohan
Kick off ur shoes, take a break! Crank the tunes, Dance & Shake, light the candles, cut the cake Make it sticky, that is simply Grace!!! Happy Birthday ~Rika
Happy Birthday, Kinky! I had no idea you were a guy! =D ~Akari
May the day be sunny, the weather be warm, and happy an understatement on your birthday. ~Wraithwriter~
Happy Birthday Kinky!!! Have fun and enjoy!!! ~Zing
Happy birthday! I'm always amazed by how hard you work, and I'm glad to have you as a "boss"! I hope you have the birthday you deserve! ~rekishi
Happy Birthday! Haven't known you for long, but you are very hard working! Have a ball on your birthday, you deserve it! Best Wishes, ~Urubana
Have a Happy Birthday, Kinky! ~Madyna

Growing old is mandatory but growing up is optional. You'll always be my favorite 5 year old <3
-Jiuny!
happy birthday, you're officially old!
-choco
Dear our beloved Kinky, Happy Birthday! It's been a rough year, but you've shown me courage and determination like I've never seen before. So here's to you and another great year ahead! Cheers!
-Yuki
Thank you for all your hard work, hope next year will be better for you
Happy Birthday Kinky! ;)
-Ryotaro
Happy birthday, Kinkers~ :D
-Kureha
Have a lovely birthday!
-mitsugetsu
Happy birthday, Kinky! Hope you have an awesome one (
-Zain
Happy Birthday!! And here's to more yaoi, smut and even more Blissful days to come! Have a Great Day
-Sayaka
Thanks for putting up with all of us and
Happy Birthday!
-TromTrom
Wishing you a marvelous birthday with lots of merriment and glomping and duks and orgasms!
-alethiaxx
Have an awesome birthday, Kinky! Here's to more releases and another good year for you and Bliss!
Best ;)
-iz
You will never be too old for birthday sex yaoi, so have a wonderful one!! :D
-Suez
Happy Birthday Kinky!! Thanks for keeping everything running and bringing Bliss to the masses > ^
=^_^= Misery
Happy Birthday Kinky Thanks for putting up with my random absences :D
XOXO Crescent
Happy birthday! Do your best and have fun in anything you do)
-Giong
Happy birthday, Kinky!
_chuchu XP_phongbui
Happy birthday, our favourite slave driver <3
Hope your big day is bishie-licious! (More than usual anyway)
-Mero
Happy birthday! Otan jou-bi omedetou gozaimasu! qu nijsheng er kuai le! Sen N Kuai Lo! Joyeux anniversaire! Saeng il chuk ha ham ni da! Chuc mung s nhinnat!
-Kiddouv
To our founder and bossman:
Happy Birthday Kinky!

Fujiyama Hyouta

ディア・グリーン

瞳の追うのは ③

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ディア・グリーン

瞳の追うのは ③

FUJIYAMA HYOUTA
富士山ひょうた

Profile

涼子
RYOUKO

She was Otoumi's girlfriend during high school, but right now she is good friends with both of them. Has a good relationship with a kouhai from her company...?

Summary

Yukari got to know Otoumi through his friend Ryouko who was dating him. They both went to Tokyo for college, and even now they are still in contact even though Ryouko had broken up with Otoumi

In the beginning, they both thought that they had a connection with a comfortable and pleasant friendship, but that "connection" started to change little by little.

Otoumi was aware that he liked Yukari, and Yukari noticed the changes in Otoumi...

Yukari realized that, more than the change in the once pleasant Otoumi, he hated that their connection would disappear and die out.

While trying to save this changed connection and while keeping their distances, their daily lives continued with them avoiding their feelings.

However, unable to avoid it, the frustrated Yukari and Otoumi started to develop a physical relationship, and without a doubt, they both became aware of each other's feelings, or that's what they thought...

矢島 縁
YAJIMA YUKARI

In order to open up his own co...ee shop, he dropped out o college and is working a part-time job receiving training at a cafe. He might look like a frivolous person, but he's really just an awkward, clumsy guy.

音海 紘
OTOUMI KOU

After graduating college, he was employed at the designing company that he worked part-time at as a student. In busy times, he works sleepless nights. Unfortunately, because he's not good at speaking, he appears unsociable.

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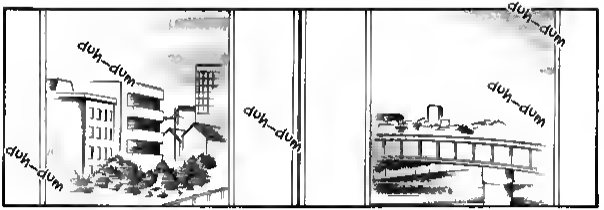
12
NO IT'S FINE
THANK YOU!
EH...? STARTING NEXT WEEK?
YES
OKAY
I UNDERSTAND
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
SET
.....
I NEVER IMAGINED THEY'D CONTACT ME TELLING ME TO COME WORK!
MUST BE BECAUSE I PURSUED IT SO AGGRESSIVELY
TO—GO!
LUCKY!

fwump
...THE PROBLEM IS.
HOW TO BREAK IT TO OTOUMI
"Don't go getting carried away."
slide
slide
KNK
scratch scratch

IT'S YAJIMA
WERE YOU STILL SLEEPING?
click
YES..
NN..
SO WHAT? IT'S MY DAY OFF
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
RRRR
NO WAY, GET UP ALREADY
WHAT THE HELL..?
I'M COMING TO PICK YOU UP RIGHT NOW
HUH?
SO GET READY TO LEAVE RIGHT AWAY
PICK ME..
WELL SEE YOU LATER
HEY..!
silence
.....?

第12話

THE OCEAN
THE OCEAN?
And what's exactly?
TO BE PRECISE IT'S A CAFE BY THE OCEAN.
WE'RE TAKING THE TRAIN?
I WANT TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE GOING
I'LL TREAT YOU.
SO LET'S GO GET SOME COFFEE



With him leading, we changed trains twice.

I don't know what Yukari's intentions are either.
But I wonder if this isn't connected to that one phone call
When he told me we were going to the ocean.
I expected it'd be sort of a trip, but I don't know where he's planning on going.
clank
duh-dum
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN OUT HERE
clank
Sitting side by side,
clank
duh-dum
duh-dum
We haven't made one bit of small talk.
I said things like I was denying Yukari's confession.
"You don't want to regret it when you calm down, do you?"
"Cool your head a little."

There's no way Yukari wasn't hurt.
Even though I know that,
I can't just apologize and feel finished with it.
I feel a little like I've done something wrong
It isn't that I don't believe his confession, and there's a part of me that's happy
But even words spoken on the phone...
Have true feelings buried in them somewhere
WE'RE HERE
THAT'S THE PLACE

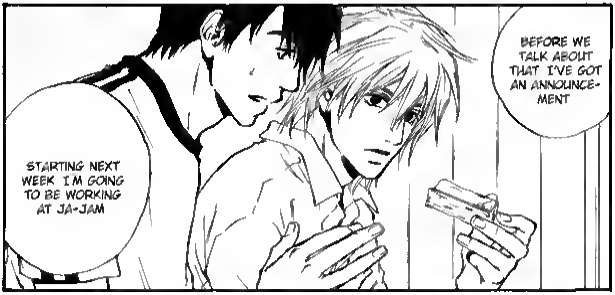
SHOULD WE SIT FARTHER INSIDE?
WE CAN SEE THE OCEAN FROM THE WINDOW.
I GUESS FARTHER IN IS BRIGHTER.
ding dong
WELCOME.
PRETTY DIM IN HERE...
IT HAS THE FEELING OF A COZY CAFE THAT'S BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME
I WONDER IF THAT MIDDLE-AGED GUY (OR IS HE A GRANDPA?) RUNS THIS PLACE ALONE
OTOUMI WHAT ARE YOU HAVING?
ANYTHING'S FINE YOU DECIDE
BLENDED COFFEE AND CHEESE TOAST.
TWO OF EACH PLEASE.
UNDER-STOOD.

CHEESE TOAST?
HEY, YOU HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH OR ANYTHING
DO YOU COME TO THIS CAFE A LOT?
IT'S PRETTY FAR.
NO.
ONLY FIVE TIMES...

TWO YEARS AGO I CAME HERE THREE TIMES IN A ROW
THE FOURTH TIME WAS THE DAY I DECIDED TO QUIT COL-LEGE
...AND TODAY'S THE FIFTH TIME

THANKS FOR WAITING
:

AND YOU WANT TO OPEN UP A SHOP LIKE THIS ONE?
YEAH.
IS THIS THE PLACE THAT MADE YOU THINK YOU WANTED TO OPEN A CAFE?
THIS KIND OF ATMOSPHERE IS MY GOAL.
AH...
CORRECT.
ISN'T IT GOOD?

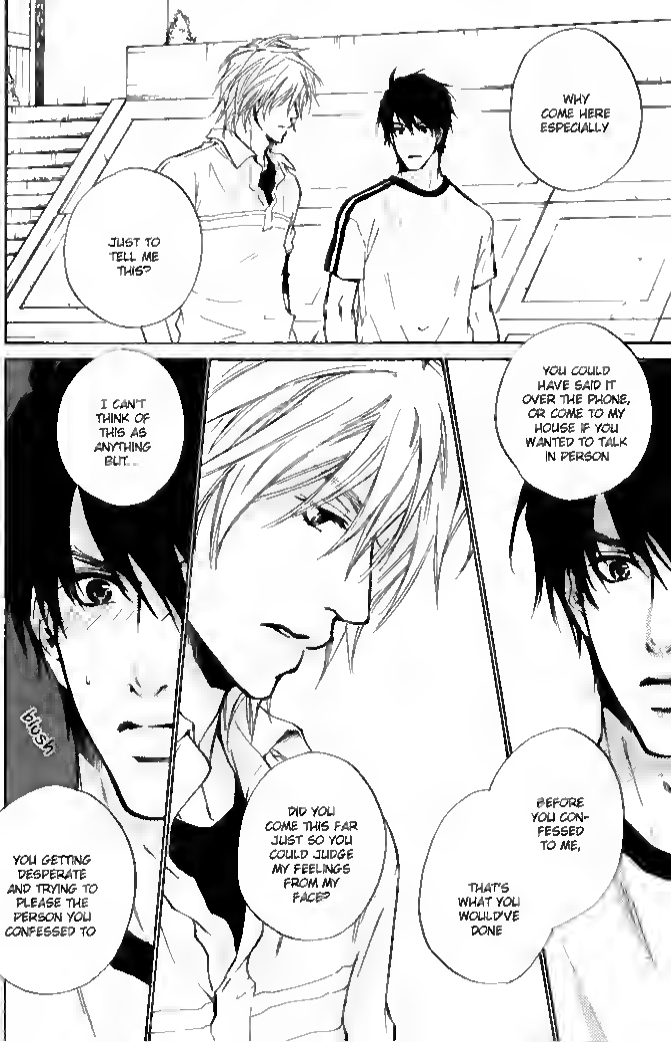

BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT THAT I'VE GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT
STARTING NEXT WEEK I'M GOING TO BE WORKING AT JA-JAM

WHEN I WENT TO ASK IF THEY WERE HIRING, THEY ASKED ME TO LEAVE MY CONTACT INFO, AND...
I'M NOT TRYING TO MAKE EXCUSES OR ANYTHING
THEY CALLED AND ASKED ME IF I'D WORK THERE
HUH...
...THE STORE BY MY PLACE?
YEAH.

WELL, THAT'S ALRIGHT I GUESS
IF YOU'VE DECIDED .
HEY, SEEMS LIKE WE CAN GET DOWN TO THE BEACH FROM THERE
WANT TO CHECK IT OUT WHEN WE LEAVE?
TWO YEARS AGO. ON SUMMER VACATION,
I CAME HERE WITH SOME COLLEGE FRIENDS
WE WERE ALL INTERESTED IN THE CAFE
SO EVERY-ONE WENT INSIDE FOR A WHILE
BACK THEN, I JUST THOUGHT THAT THEIR COFFEE WAS DELICIOUS, AND THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS NICE.
A WHILE AFTER I GOT HOME, FOR NO PARTICULAR REASON I STARTED WANTING TO DRINK THEIR COFFEE.
SO I CAME BACK ALONE IN SORT OF A VAGUE MOOD.

NATURALLY, WHEN I DID, IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM COMING WITH EVERY-ONE
THERE WERE REGULAR CUS-TOMERS AND CUSTOMERS ON THEIR FIRST VISIT LIKE I WAS
THE PLACE ISN'T SMALL, BUT IT HAS THIS UNIQUE, PLEASANT FEELING OF SECLUSION
THE THIRD TIME, WHEN I WAS REALLY IMMERSED IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PLACE,
I STARTED HAVING THOUGHTS ABOUT OPEN-ING A PLACE LIKE THIS
WHEN I SAID MY GOAL WAS THIS ATMO-SPHERE WELL...
I GUESS I MEANT...
AS FOR JA-JAM,
IT GETS A LOT OF STU-DENTS AT NIGHT, AND HAS THIS OPEN FEELING...
BUT IT HAS A RELAXED FEELING TOO, AND THERE ARE ALWAYS REGULARS AROUND THE OWNER
I THINK I'LL LEARN SOME-THING FROM THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIM AND THE CUS-TOMERS
STEP
STEP
STEP

I REALLY THOUGHT THINGS THROUGH AND CHOSE THIS SHOP
AH... SO
WHAT I WANTED TO SAY WAS...
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THERE WAS MORE TO IT THAN THAT...
WELL, MAYBE I WAS JUST A LITTLE
I WASN'T GETTING CARRIED AWAY...
?
BUT...
...I KNOW
I PROBABLY SAID TOO MUCH THAT TIME TOO.


WHY COME HERE ESPECIALLY
JUST TO TELL ME THIS?
YOU COULD HAVE SAID IT OVER THE PHONE, OR COME TO MY HOUSE IF YOU WANTED TO TALK IN PERSON
I CAN'T THINK OF THIS AS ANYTHING BUT...
bosh
BEFORE YOU CONFESSED TO ME,
THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD'VE DONE
DID YOU COME THIS FAR JUST SO YOU COULD JUDGE MY FEELINGS FROM MY FACE?
YOU GETTING DESPERATE AND TRYING TO PLEASE THE PERSON YOU CONFESSED TO

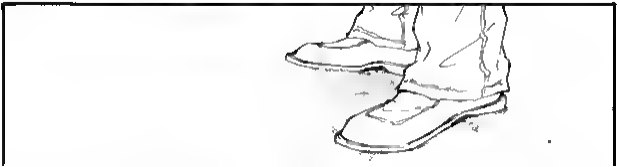
I WOULD HATE TO JUST GO ON BEING AWKWARD AFTER YOU HUNG UP ON ME LIKE THAT
INSTEAD OF HAVING YOU GET SULLEN AND SAY, "WELL ISN'T THAT GREAT,"
"PLEASE"
OF COURSE I WANT TO
WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH THAT!?
I WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING AND HOW I CHOSE THIS SHOP,
AND THEN, ONCE YOU UNDERSTOOD, HEAR YOUR REACTION
IF I'VE CHANGED,
THEN HAVEN'T YOU CHANGED TOO!?
BUT THEN, SO WHAT!?
ISN'T THAT A NORMAL WAY TO FEEL?
SNAP
THE OLD YUKARI WOULD NEVER GO THIS FAR.

AND I WAS THINKING THAT...
EVEN IF I DIDN'T SAY THAT SORT OF THING,
I'D STILL BRING YOU HERE THE NEXT TIME I CAME
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PAST BEING ONE WAY OR ANOTHER
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE TOGETHER LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW..!
push
IF YOU THINK THIS IS JUST ME TRYING TO PLEASE YOU,
THEN I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU

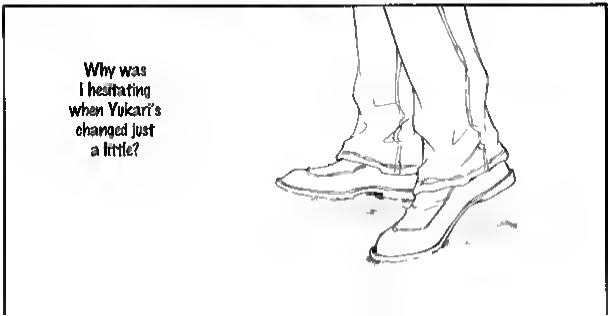
Ah.
If I've changed then haven't you changed, too? But, then so what?
Does it matter what the past was like?
Even though we're together like this right now
He was right.

No matter how we change, it's not important, is it?

IT'S NO TROUBLE
YOU DON NEED TO GO WITH ME YOU CAN LEAV
I'LL SEE YOU OFF
whoosh
BYE
BYE
I DECIDED TO WORK A BIT LONGER AT THE CAFE
THREE MORE MONTHS
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
With Ryouko being our only connection to each other,
exactly what will the time we've had together become?



Did Yukari go and reject me flat out...
Because I was changing?
DON'T BE SO NOSY


Why was I hesitating when Yukari's changed just a little?

SO, THIS STORE THAT INFLUENCED YOU SO MUCH THAT YOU DROPPED OUT...
WHAT KIND OF PLACE IS IT?
WHEN I CAN GET A BIG HEAD AND SAY "THIS PLACE WAS MY STARTING POINT".
THEN I'LL TELL YOU

Even though Yukari's saying that the important thing is us being together...

YUKARI.
GRAB
SORRY...!

stomp
stomp
stomp
PULL
!!
clutch

UGH...
AH...!
THUD
H... HEY, YOU..!
SORRY.
I'M REALLY ..
... SORRY.
SORRY.

rustle
I'M PRETTY SERIOUSLY...
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT I SHOULD BE MAD AT YOU...
YOU... ARE SO UNFAIR, MAN...
WHAT THE HELL, MAN...

duh-dum
duh-dum
duh-dum
duh-dum

I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY BUDGET,
SO I THINK I'LL TOUGH IT OUT AND WALK OR TAKE THE TRAIN FOR A WHILE...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO COMMUTE TO JA-JAM,
ARE YOU GOING TO BUY A MOPED?
clank
.... HEY.
HM?
duh-dum
I MIGHT KNOW SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO SELL THEIRS
AFTER I GET SETTLED I'LL ASK SOME OF MY COLLEGE FRIENDS AND OLD WORK COLLEAGUES
clank
duh-dum
I SEE
I'LL ASK PEOPLE I KNOW TOO
THANKS

clank
clank
clank
clank
clank
THE LINE 2 TRAIN IS ENTERING THE STATION.
PLEASE STEP BEHIND THE WHITE LINE.
2
clank
clank
clank
STA
RE
dum...dum
OTOUMI, YOU'RE NEXT.
...YEAH.
...NEXT STOP IS FUNAGAWA, FUNAGAWA.

whoosh
!
GRAB
!?
THE TRAIN WILL BE MOVING SHORTLY
beep beep beep
PLEASE WATCH THE CLOSING DOORS
Jo sc
clank
PLEASE DO NOT BOARD
OTOUMI!?
WHAT

STAY AT MY PLACE TONIGHT
...IS THAT OKAY?

END

13
pop
HN...
OW...
roll
MM...
SMACK

flinch
SLAM!
AH
第13話

Bliss
http://bliss.fanlisted.com

MAN, SERIOUSLY...
ACTUALLY THINKING THAT OTOUMI'S SLEEPING FACE IS CUTE I'M PRETTY...
SHOOK

creak
HEY, OTOUMI!
I'M GOING OUT TO BUY BREAKFAST
MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP BEFORE I COME BACK
LINH
SEE YA

NICE TO MEET YOU AGAIN. I'M YAJIMA YUKARI
I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE STARTING TODAY.
UM-HUM, LIKEWISE. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF AGAIN. I'M THE OWNER, MINEZAKI.
SHE WASN'T HERE LAST TIME BUT THIS IS MY WIFE. CALL HER "MADAM," OK?
NICE TO MEET YOU.

WELL THEN, YAJIMA, WE'D LIKE YOU TO START CLEANING RIGHT AWAY,
SINCE WE'RE TRAINING YOU AND ALL
YES

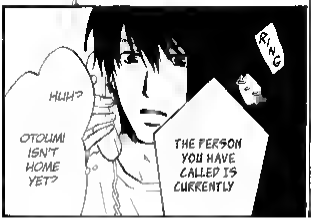
SORRY, HE'S GOT SOME WEIRD DEMANDS
YEP
I DON'T LIKE ANYONE OTHER THAN ME CALLING HER BY HER FIRST NAME
AH, "MADAM", IS IT...?
HA...

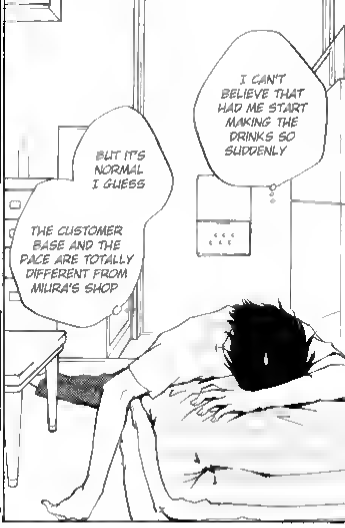
THE CLIENT COMPLETELY CHANGED OUR DRAFT
YEAH... HAA...
SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES?
AND THEN THERE'S THAT CATALOGUE
I THINK WE'LL HAVE TO START STAYING LATE AGAIN, SO GET READY FOR IT.
HAA...

SO I'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOUR SKILLS FIRST.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT WHEN I'M OUT,
DO YOU WANT TO TRY BREWING SOME COFFEE?
IS IT ALL RIGHT?
HUH? ARE YOU A NEW PART-TIMER?
WELCOME
YES, STARTING TODAY
She works at an office during lunchtime.
click click
EH?
SORRY!
MY WIFE JUST GOT A CALL SAYING OUR DAUGHTER'S GOT A FEVER, SO SHE WENT TO PICK HER UP
WEL-COME
cheerer
Let's have some cake before heading back.
AH! THEY'RE GETTING MORE PEOPLE!
cheerer
SO BIG...
Handmade & Heart

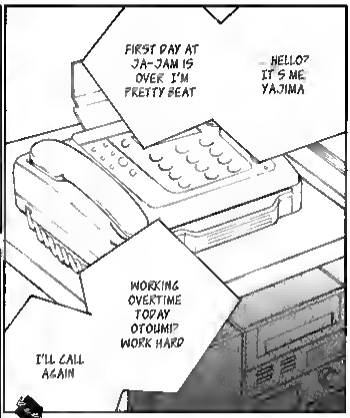
...SO TIRED...
THAT'S A FIRST DAY FOR YOU...

click


RING
HUH?
OTOUMI ISN'T HOME YET?
THE PERSON YOU HAVE CALLED IS CURRENTLY


I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HAD ME START MAKING THE DRINKS SO SUDDENLY
BUT IT'S NORMAL I GUESS
THE CUSTOMER BASE AND THE PACE ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MIURA'S SHOP

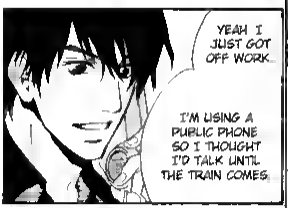
Alarm clock


FIRST DAY AT JA-JAM IS OVER I'M PRETTY BEAT
HELLO? IT'S ME, YAJIMA
WORKING OVERTIME TODAY OTOUMI? WORK HARD
I'LL CALL AGAIN

SO TIRED
I JUST GOT BACK GOOD WORK ON YOUR FIRST DAY
SOMETHING SUDDENLY CAME UP SO I'LL PROBABLY BE HOME LATE THIS ENTIRE WEEK I HOPE YOU'LL CALL ON THE WEEKEND
SO... GOOD NIGHT
RING
THE PERSON YOU HAVE CALLED IS CURRENTLY
IT'S NOT MIDNIGHT YET SO IT SHOULD BE OKAY
I'LL CALL AGAIN
EVENING OF JULY 12TH
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG IF I CALL BACK...
BUT HE SAID HE HOPES I'LL CALL ON THE WEEKEND,
AND HE SOUNDED A LITTLE TIRED
11:55 PM
DAMN IT! IF ONLY I'D TAKEN A BATH HALF AND HOUR EARLIER...
O-later

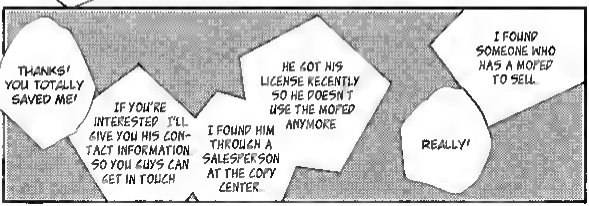
JUST UNTIL THE WEEKEND...
THE WEEK-END...
CAN-DLES?
THE ONES IN THAT CUP-BOARD
YAJIMA, YOU CAN LEAVE AFTER THAT
?
BUT I MIGHT NOT BE THERE ON THE WEEKENDS EITHER.
A GIN AND TONIC AND A MOSCOW MULE, OK?
YES
GOT IT GOOD WORK
WELL THEN I'M FINISHING UP
IF THE CANDLES ON THE TABLES LOOK LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO BURN OUT, CHANGE THEM, OK?
BUT IF YOU STAYED UNTIL CLOSING, YOU CAN'T GET HOME CAN YOU?
YEAH,
BUT DON'T WE STAY OPEN UNTIL 2:30 ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS?
AH.

ABOUT 5 MINUTES BEFORE THE TRAIN ARRIVES, HUH
I REALLY DO NEED TO GET A MOPED AS SOON AS I CAN...
IT'S PAST MIDNIGHT ALREADY,
AND I CAN'T CALL OTOUM! WHEN I GET HOME.....
RING RING
...HELLO?


YEAH I JUST GOT OFF WORK.
I'M USING A PUBLIC PHONE SO I THOUGHT I'D TALK UNTIL THE TRAIN COMES.

...YUKARI?
IT FEELS LIKE I HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR VOICE FOR 100,000 YEARS...
He picked up.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, MAN?
ARE YOU CALLING FROM SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE?

THEN THAT MEANS YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE MESSAGE I LEFT?
HUH?


I FOUND SOMEONE WHO HAS A MOPED TO SELL.
REALLY!
HE GOT HIS LICENSE RECENTLY SO HE DOESN'T USE THE MOPED ANYMORE.
I FOUND HIM THROUGH A SALESPERSON AT THE COPY CENTER.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED I'LL GIVE YOU HIS CONTACT INFORMATION SO YOU GUYS CAN GET IN TOUCH
THANKS! YOU TOTALLY SAVED ME!

WITH THAT, I'LL BE ABLE TO STAY UNTIL CLOSING TIME ON THE WEEKENDS
I WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK UNTIL 2:30 TONIGHT.
BUT THE TRAINS ARE STOPPING SOON SO THEY LET ME LEAVE EARLY.
TRAIN 2 WILL BE
THE TRAIN'S COMING. HUH?

AH... I WANTED TO TALK MORE ABOUT THE MOPED THING A BIT...
TRAIN 2 IS ENTERING THE STATION.
AH, IT IS.
HANGING UP?
CALL ME AGAIN WHEN YOU GET HOME IF ANYTHING...
THAT'S ALL I HAD TO SAY.
CLICK
OK
duh-dum
duh-dum
duh-dum
duh-dum
THE TRAIN IS LEAVING. PLEASE WATCH THE CLOSING DOORS...
Bliss
http://bliss.diamond-yuri.net

...WASN'T THAT THE LAST TRAIN?
NO, SECOND-TO-LAST
THE LAST ONE'S ANOTHER 20 MINUTES
DO YOU WANT TO KEEP TALKING UNTIL THEN?
NO
I ACTUALLY...

COULD I POSSIBLY COME OVER...?

YOU'RE AT THE STATION ALREADY
YOU WANT TO COME BACK TO MY PLACE?
ARE YOU STUPID?
YES

INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE STATION
COULDN'T YOU HAVE ASKED TO STAY OVER FROM THE START?
LIM, HOW SHOULD I PUT IT? AFTER I HEARD YOUR VOICE
Ah, I really am pretty...
...YOU REALLY STINK OF CIGARETTES.
sniff
HUH? REALLY?
PROBABLY BECAUSE WE GET A LOT OF SMOKING CUSTOMERS WHEN THE PLACE TURNS INTO A BAR AT NIGHT
I'LL LEND YOU A CHANGE OF CLOTHES, SO GO TAKE A BATH

HEY... YOU WENT AND FELL ASLEEP WHEN I WAS IN THE BATH
snooze
EVEN IF YOU'RE EXHAUSTED FROM WORKING OVER-TIME YOU STILL CAN'T DO THAT
press

WELL, MAYBE I'LL JUST BE HAPPY I COULD SEE YOUR FACE.
GOOD NIGHT

··END··

Bliss
http://bliss.fanscanlation.net

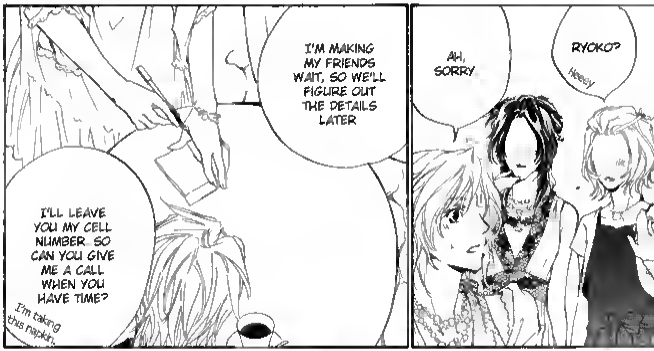
SEEMS LIKE THEY HURRIED IT BECAUSE HER FIANCÉ'S GETTING TRANSFERRED OVERSEAS.
AND THE CEREMONY IS THIS SATURDAY?
UH-HUH.
WEDDING?
YEAH, MY ELDEST SISTER'S.
HUH?
THEY MUST HAVE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED PRETTY RECENTLY.
OH
I'M GOING TO GO PICK UP THE MOPED ON SATURDAY TOO.
NO, THEY'RE LETTING ME GET THE MOPED IN THE AFTERNOON.
THEN GO INTO WORK AT NIGHT
SATURDAY? GOT THE DAY OFF?
I WAS THINKING ABOUT STOPPING BY YOUR PLACE ON MY WAY HOME
SO I COULD SHOW IT TO YOU.
I GUESS THIS WEEK'S NO GOOD.

第14話

SIP
I'VE GOT TOO MUCH TIME.
THERE WAS NO TRAIN AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME, SO I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED
HUH?
THE GIRLS WENT TO SEE SHIORI GETTING READY,
Yay!
Yay!
AND EVEN IF I'M IN THE WAITING ROOM, THE OLDER WOMEN WILL JUST SURROUND ME AND BADGER ME WITH QUESTIONS.
Do you have a girlfriend yet?
Are you working hard?

KOU-KUN!
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE WHEN I SAW SOMETHING THAT SAID "OTOUMI FAMILY", BUT...
YOU ACTUALLY CAME?
IS IT YOUR SISTER'S WEDDING?
...RYOKO
YEAH, IT'S MY ELDEST SISTER'S
YOU HERE FOR SOMEONE'S WEDDING TOO?
WOW... I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU HERE!
ARE YOU HEADING BACK RIGHT AFTER THE WEDDING?
YEAH, THE WEDDING RECEPTION FOR MY FRIEND FROM JUNIOR COLLEGE JUST ENDED
I'M STAYING AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE TONIGHT, AND I'LL BE HERE UNTIL TOMORROW AFTERNOON

YEAH
ONLY YAJIMA ENDED UP COMING LAST TIME
OH, THEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS,
LET'S GO OUT TO LUNCH TOMORROW


I'LL LEAVE YOU MY CELL NUMBER. SO CAN YOU GIVE ME A CALL WHEN YOU HAVE TIME?
I'm taking this napkin.
I'M MAKING MY FRIENDS WAIT, SO WE'LL FIGURE OUT THE DETAILS LATER
AH, SORRY
RYOKO?
Hiroki

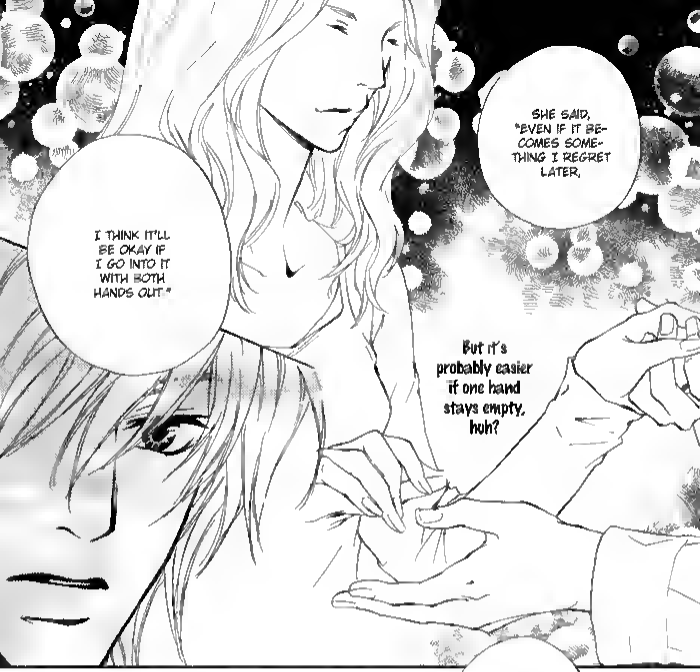
Huh. You were talking pretty normally.
He was my boyfriend in high school. Cute?
Hey, who was that just now?

"Only Yajima ended up coming last time."
I ended up nodding so easily.
WHY? WE HAVEN'T BEEN ALONE WITH EACH OTHER SINCE WE BROKE UP

I REALLY SHOULDN'T WEAR SHOES I'M NOT USED TO
UGGHHH
It hurts.

AYANE... WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE GUEST ROOM?
DAD AND THE OTHERS ARE GOING OVER THE CELEBRATIONS IN THE LIVING ROOM I THOUGH I'D BE A BOTHER
GO TO YOUR OWN ROOM
BUT HARUKA WENT BACK TO HER BOY-FRIEND'S IT'S SO BORING BY MYSELF
I THOUGHT IT'D BE OKAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BUT...
AND YOU'RE LEAVING SO QUICKLY TOMORROW...
OKAY...
FINE BUT GET OFF THE FUTON
IT'S MY SPACE
BUT I'M GLAD SHIORI WAS ABLE TO GET MARRIED
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THEY FIGHT,

...THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING?
HUH!?
YEAH, THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING!
HOW DO YOU NOT KNOW?
I ONLY KNEW SHE HAD A BOYFRIEND ON THE DAY MOM TOLD ME THE WEDDING DATE.
MAN, IT WAS CRAZY.
GOING STRAIGHT OVERSEAS AFTER GETTING MARRIED!
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ONCE SHE'S DECIDED SOMETHING, SHIORI JUST WON'T GIVE IN
THINGS WENT PRETTY QUICK SINCE SHE CONVINCED DAD AND EVERYONE.
BUT LATER,
I HEARD THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS SHIORI WAS ANXIOUS ABOUT AFTER BEING PROPOSED TO
BUT SHE SAID THAT WHEN HER HUSBAND'S TRANSFER WAS CONFIRMED, SHE DECIDED


I THINK IT'LL BE OKAY IF I GO INTO IT WITH BOTH HANDS OUT."
SHE SAID, "EVEN IF IT BECOMES SOMETHING I REGRET LATER,
But it's probably easier if one hand stays empty, huh?

I thought it would be terrible to regret not taking the hands someone held out to me.

HUH?
THE SHOP YAJIMA IS WORKING AT IS NEAR YOUR PLACE KOU-KUN?
SO, IT'S A PLACE YAJIMA FOUND HIMSELF?
I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE MYSELF
WHAT KIND OF SHOP IS IT?
YEAH SEEMS LIKE HE LOOKED IN THE AREA AROUND MY PLACE
DOES HE STAY OVER A LOT AFTER WORK?
YOU TWO REALLY ARE INSE-PARABLE.
cough
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M GOOD
cough
cough

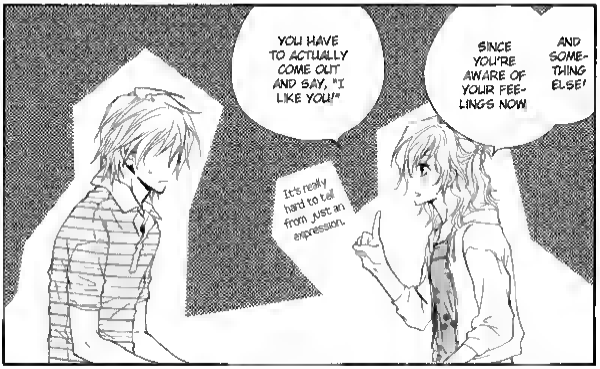
SORRY I'LL CALL YOU BACK TONIGHT
OKAY BYE.
YEAH
HELLO?
...SORRY, I'M EATING OUT RIGHT NOW
AH
ONE SECOND
BOY-FRIEND?
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT, I HAD SOME-THING TO ASK YOU
?
HE'S A JUNIOR THAT ENTERED OUR COMPANY THIS YEAR. WE STARTED DATING RECENTLY.
YEAH
I MENTIONED IT TO YAJIMA THAT ONE TIME DID HE TELL YOU?
NO
He didn't

DOESN'T YAJIMA HAVE SOME ONE-SIDED LOVE FOR SOMEONE RIGHT NOW?
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD KNOW
NO... WE DON'T REALLY TALK ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING...
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHEN THINGS WERE REALLY DIFFICULT
AND IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT WITH RYOKO...
I GUESS GUY FRIENDS ARE LIKE THAT.
I SEE...
WHEN WE MET LAST TIME, THERE WAS SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THE WAY HE WAS ACTING,
ESPECIALLY WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS
WHY...?
I DIDN'T DIG TOO DEEP INTO IT, BUT NOW IT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME.

ARE YOU GOING OUT WITH ANYONE?
DID YOU FIND SOMEONE YOU ACTUALLY LIKE?
!
SO?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KOU?
MORE OR LESS.
UH...
WHICH IS IT?
YOU'RE DATING? YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE? OR BOTH?
YOU PUTTING IT AS "MORE OR LESS" REALLY MAKES ME CURIOUS...

I ACTUALLY LIKE SOMEONE
NO
BUT YOU ARE DATING ?
YOU MEAN THE RELATIONSHIP ISN'T CONFIRMED YET
I DON'T REALLY GET IT,
BUT I WON'T ASK YOU ANYMORE
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO SEE THAT EXPRESSION
kinda amazing.

BUT KOU-KUN,
I'M GLAD YOU HAVE SOMEONE THAT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE THAT
I HOPE THINGS GO WELL...
WITH THAT PERSON


YOU HAVE TO ACTUALLY COME OUT AND SAY, "I LIKE YOU!"
SINCE YOU'RE AWARE OF YOUR FEELINGS NOW
AND SOMETHING ELSE!
It's really hard to tell from just an expression.

SORRY TO MAKE YOU DRIVE ME TO THE STATION
IT'S FINE.
NO PROBLEM. SAY HI TO YAJIMA FOR ME.

IS HERE REALLY OKAY?
WE COULD KILL TIME UNTIL THE TRAIN GETS HERE

AH.
HEY!
I'M REAL-LY GLAD WE COULD GO EAT TOGETHER TODAY
IT WOULD'VE BEEN NICE WITH YAJIMA TOO.
BUT WHEN WE'RE ALL TOGETHER HE ENDS UP WORRYING ABOUT US!
I FEEL RE-FRESHED NOW THAT I WAS ABLE TO SAY EVERYTHING I WANTED TO.
THANKS FOR GOING WITH ME

"Did you find someone you actually like?"

But the feeling that it'd be great if I could tell her someday...
Is somewhere inside me too.
No
It's just because it was Kyoko that I couldn't say it
It's not that I held back because I was talking to Kyoko...

Someday

When?

When that "someday" arrives I wonder if Yukuri will be next to me.

Things that I can't do anything about by just thinking about them keep going around and around in my head.

I thought it would be terrible to regret not taking the hands someone held out to me.

HELLO?
...AH. I'M AT THE STATION RIGHT NOW.
I'VE STILL GOT SOME TIME BEFORE THE TRAIN ARRIVES
DID YOU GO GET THE MOPED?
YEAH
I RODE IT TO WORK YESTERDAY.

Yukari held out one of his hands to me.

WHAT TIME WILL YOU GET BACK?
IF I CAN MAKE IT TO MY TRANSFER ON THE SHINKANSEN, PROBABLY AROUND 7:30
HUH
SHOULD I PICK YOU UP AT THE STATION AND TAKE THE CHANCE TO SHOW YOU THE MOPED?

Can I always hold onto that hand, or will there be a day when I have to let go?

Even if I think about it, there's no way for me to know

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What I do know is that I have no intention of holding any hands but Yukari's.

I'll put both my hands out
When he's willing, I'd be happy if Yukari would take them.

-•END•-

第15話

I went in the afternoon, helmet in hand, to pick up the moped. Then it was straight to work.
At 3 a.m., I finished cleaning up and left the shop.
When I got home, I got a little down.
Then...
ZZZ
BARELY MID-MORNING
11:30
Today's Sunday, my regular day off.
BATH
NO FOOD FIRST...

BUT OTOUMI WENT TO HIS HOMETOWN, UNDER THE FARAWAY SKIES OF WEST JAPAN...
CLICK
Five days ago, I was thinking I'd love to go straight to Otoumi's place after work, stay the night..
Then just spend Sunday together lazily..
HE SAID HE'D GIVE ME A CALL BEFORE HE LEAVES TODAY
BUT DEPENDING ON THE TIME WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MEET
Of course, I've got this feeling that I want to hurry up and show Otoumi
That moped that I got because of him (and one other guy, I guess).
And celebrate.

HE LET ME STAY OVER THAT TIME
BUT HE ACTUALLY FELL ASLEEP WHILE I WAS IN THE SHOWER.
chomp chomp
OTOUMI'S SO BUSY THAT THE LAST TIME WE MET WAS THE WEEK BEFORE LAST
But, well, in short,
I wanna see him.
Basically,
BY THE TIME WE WOKE UP IN THE MORNING THE MOOD WAS GONE
IF IT WAS GOING TO TURN OUT LIKE THAT I SHOULD'VE JUST ATTACKED HIM IN HIS SLEEP
SIP SIP
I want to see him and touch him.

I WONDER IF I SHOULD JUST TAKE CARE OF IT NOW
SEC
Not being able to see each other,
and having those feelings just collect when we're together...
I feel really pent up.
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ

When I'm like this, I can't imagine Otouni.

But truthfully,

I can "reminisce", but as far as fantasizing..
Strictly speaking,
AH...
FWUMP
IS THIS EMPTINESS...?
MISERABLE... LONELY...
EVERYTHING...
In the end, I just kept thinking of one thing or another.
Without even going out, I just stared at the phone for who knows how many hours

I WONDER IF I SHOULD BUY A CELL PHONE AFTER ALL...
R R R
R R R
Out of habit, he put on a train.
SNATCH
HUH!?
DID I DOZE OFF?
HELLO...!
...OH, OTOUMI.
YOU'RE GETTING ON THE TRAIN NOW?
YEAH.

I'LL COME OVER AND SEE
I'LL COME OVER AS SOON AS I GET BACK SO STAY HOME
HUH
SHOULD I PICK YOU UP AT THE STATION AND TAKE THE CHANCE TO SHOW YOU THE MOPED?
HUH...?

NO I DON'T MIND AT ALL
BUT YOU HAVE WORK TOMORROW, RIGHT?
S... STAY OVER?
UH... YOU'RE COMING JUST TO SEE THE MOPED...?

...HE'S NOT HERE...
YOU SAID AROUND 7:30, RIGHT...? MM, I'LL BE WAITING

BESIDES, HE DIDN'T CALL TO SAY HE'D BE LATE...
.....
EVEN IF HE WAS A LITTLE OFF, IS THERE ANY WAY HE WOULDN'T MAKE IT HERE BY 8?
HE'S EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE NEAREST STATION AROUND 7:30.
grab
OPEN
slam!

HAA...

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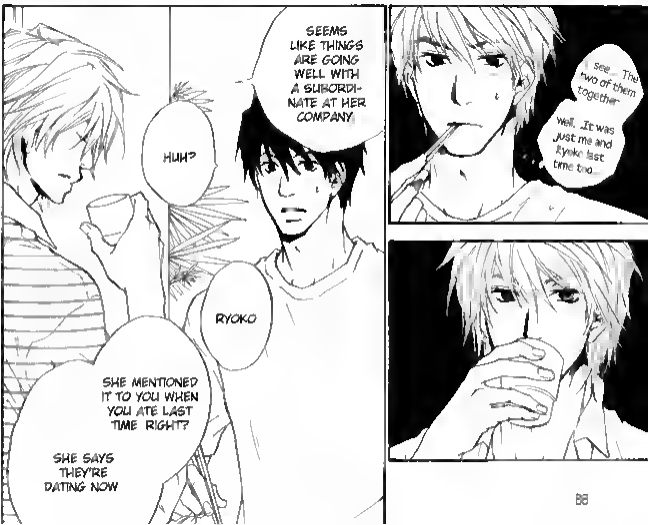
YUKARI!
OH.
HUH...?
OTOUMI?
HUH? NOT OVERSEAS?
SHE'S PROBABLY HAPPILY HONEYMOONING IN HOKKAIDO BY NOW
IT WENT WELL
SO? HOW WAS YOUR SISTER'S WEDDING?
SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BECOMING AN EXPERT IN THE JOYS OF JAPAN'S OCEANS BEFORE THE TRANSFER ABROAD
I SEE
I REALLY SHOULD GET A CELL AFTER ALL.
AH I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT TODAY, TOO

SO WE HAD LUNCH TOGETHER TODAY.
OH, AND SHE INVITED ME
HUH?
SHE SAID IT WAS BECAUSE THE LAST TIME SHE WAS IN TOKYO SHE ONLY GOT TO SEE YOU, YUKARI
chew chew
AH. . . REALLY
RYOKO?
YEAH SHE WAS GOING TO A FRIEND'S RECEPTION IN THE SAME HOTEL
OH YEAH, AND I RAN INTO RYOKO


SEEMS LIKE THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH A SUBORDINATE AT HER COMPANY.
HUH?
RYOKO
SHE MENTIONED IT TO YOU WHEN YOU ATE LAST TIME RIGHT?
SHE SAYS THEY'RE DATING NOW
See. The two of them together.
Well. It was just me and Ryoko last time too.

YEAH.
SO, SHE ENDED UP DATING HIM AFTER ALL, HUH?
WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK OF RELIEF?
Dammit...
Is it that obvious?
When I'm with him,
the atmosphere gets a little heavy.
SHOULD WE GO?
STAND
YEAH

I can't stand this feeling.
HUH?
whoosh
YUKARI DID YOU LEAVE THE AIR CONDITIONER ON WHEN YOU LEFT?
WHAT COULD I DO ABOUT IT?
I WAS IN A HURRY...
I DIDN'T NOTICE AT THE TIME!
How rare!
You're always so careful.
I DIDN'T THINK I WAS LATE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU THAT FLUSTERED

grab
!
I'M GOING TO BORROW YOUR SHOWER.
SURE, BUT CAN YOU DO IT LATER?
...I DON'T MIND, BUT...
DON'T I STINK?
OF SWEAT
NOT REALLY. IT'S KIND OF HOT

...OH.
AND ME...?
Am I sweaty?
NOT REALLY.
HUH...
WAI... ARE YOU SERIOUS..!?
H-HEY, OTOUMI...?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
UGH...

swallow
All at once, we've ended up in the territory..
It's...
That I can't stop going to in my fantasies.
EV... EVEN JUST VISUAL-LY THIS IS. PRETTY...
NN.
YOU'RE NOT LET-TING ME CONCEN-TRATE
IF YOU DO THAT I'M GOING TO COME RIGHT NOW
THEN COME
OR.
...YOU DON'T WANT TO?
NO.
YOU
BEHAVE AND LET ME DO THIS
wiggle wiggle

This heavy atmosphere that clings to us...

And makes it hard to even breathe...

I can't stand it

BUT,
I WENT IN KNOWING THAT,
SO DON'T GO AND BACK OUT NOW
...
...DOES IT HURT...?
EVEN A FINGER, KIND OF DID,
SO THERE'S NO WAY THIS WOULDN'T
UNGH..
OTOUMI TRY TURNING YOUR BACK TO ME
NN
HAA...
HAA
...UH
THANKS.

HAA...
UGH...
AH...
FUU..
FUU
NNN...
NN...
FUU...

I ALREADY...
WIPED IT ALL OFF SO IT SHOULD BE FINE.

IN THE MORNING...
WAKE ME UP WHENEVER.
I'LL SHOWER WHEN I WAKE UP...
LET ME GO TO SLEEP ALREADY
BUT IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET IN THE SHOWER...
worry
worry
I THINK I KIND OF
MADE HIM GO TOO FAR.
AFTER ALL...
SHOOO
SURE OTOUMI DID COME TOO
BUT HE LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN A LOT OF PAIN IN THE BEGINNING...

I think I'm at the point...
Where...
SOMEHOW...
IT'S NOT THAT I WANTED TO MAKE HIM GO TOO FAR.
BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY HE LET IT HAPPEN
WELL

I can't let go of this feeling.
D-DAN...
Bliss

END

第16話

That was the winter of our first year of high school

WAS IT REALLY THAT LONG AGO?
HUH?
SPEAKING OF THAT, WASN'T IT THE FIRST TIME WE HUNG OUT TOGETHER?
WE DID IT AGAIN AFTER THAT, DIDN'T WE?
I THOUGHT IT WAS, SO I TRIED TO REMEMBER MORE
THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME WE WENT OUT WITH SHOPPING IN MIND
SO TODAY IS THE SECOND TIME
HUH

It wasn't that we were that close.

Back then, we only spoke all those times because we knew each other through Ryoko.

... THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE.

IT'S ALL MEMORIES OF EATING OUT TOGETHER.

YEAH, THAT.
AFTER RYOKO, YOU NEVER THOUGHT SO SERIOUSLY TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING A GIRL WOULD LIKE.
THAT WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU KNEW WHAT RYOKO LIKED MORE THAN I DID...
WELL, THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT TO GET YOUR GIRLFRIEND

I GUESS YOU COULD SAY RYOKO IS SPECIAL.
YOU CARED FOR HER IN YOUR OWN WAY HUH...
...GETTING JEALOUS OVER THE PAST...?
A LITTLE...
ARE YOU A MORON?

It's true.

I think I was working hard in my own way

THERE ARE SOME ACCESSORIES ON THAT SHELF THERE
Ryoko would probably like these more...
YOU GETTING A STUFFED ANIMAL?
I WAS RIGHT TO ASK YAJIMA TO COME...
WHY ISN'T THIS GUY ARGUING WITH ME MORE?
THIS ONE
OR MAYBE THIS ONE.
AH, THAT ONE MIGHT BE GOOD
The one on the left.
One that would suit her...?
HER EARS AREN'T PIERCED,
SO WOULDN'T A NECKLACE BE GOOD?
and it's not allowed at school
I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE TO PICK...
NO, IF YOU JUST THINK ABOUT WHICH ONE WOULD SUIT HER...
Bliss

OKAY, THEN I'LL GET THIS
GU??
HUH!?
ARE YOU OKAY WITH DECIDING JUST LIKE THAT?
WHY NOT?
I THOUGHT THAT IF YOU SAID IT WAS GOOD, THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD GO WRONG.
THANKS.
FOR YOU.

HEY... WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ASK ME FOR HELP?
BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D KNOW WHAT RYOKO LIKES
BUT THEN...
DON'T YOU HATE GUYS WHO KNOW WHAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND LIKES BETTER THAN YOU?
AND YOU'RE NOT AN UNLIKEABLE GUY...
?
I THOUGHT IT WAS A GIVEN THAT YOU'D KNOW BETTER, SINCE YOU AND RYOKO HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER LONGER.

...HUH?
WELL... THAT'S OKAY I GUESS

In the end, because of my "strange" way of thinking, Kyoko and I broke up.

But from that day on, Yukari and I started growing closer on our own.

HUH?
YAJIMA!?
LONG TIME NO SEE!
WAH — AND YOU'RE WITH OTOUMI-SAN TOO!
HELLO ♡
WHAT'S UP? WHAT A COINCIDENCE MEETING HERE
I CAME TO BUY A CELL PHONE
OH! YOU FINALLY DECIDED TO GET ONE?

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
WELL, THINGS HAPPEN
CALL IT A CHANGE OF HEART.
EVEN THOUGH YOU ALWAYS SAID THEY COST TOO MUCH AND YOU WOULDN'T BUY ONE?
HEY, HEY,
AYA!
tug
tug
UH...
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED TO GO GET SOME TEA SOON?
LET US HERE ABOUT THAT NEW SHOP YOU'RE WORKING AT.
AH, TRUE
WE'RE STANDING HERE CHATTING AWAY, SO
YAJIMA, DO YOU GUYS WANT TO JOIN US?

REALLY?
HUH!?
SORRY
AT THAT CAFE RIGHT THERE
WE JUST CAME FROM GETTING TEA
AH, THAT PLACE HAS PRETTY GOOD ATMOSPHERE.
I CAN'T GO VERY OFTEN, THOUGH IT'S EXPENSIVE...
HA HA HA, DEFINITELY
BUT IT'S TOO BAD I HAD A LOT OF THINGS I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT
WHAT DON'T BACK DOWN SO EASILY, AYA!
SORRY, NEXT TIME, THEN
Huh ?
Can't be helped. Let's just going, okay?
...YOU OKAY WITH THAT?

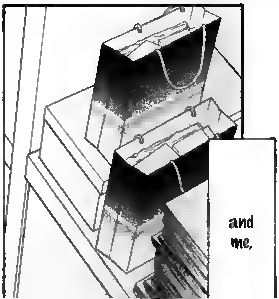
AH...
LAST TIME I SAW MIURA WAS AT THE FAREWELL PARTY.
THAT'S TWO MONTHS AT THE MOST.
YOU WANTED TO GO GET TEA AGAIN?
HM?
IT'S NOT THAT...
HASN'T IT BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU SAW THEM?
...DON'T YOU EVER MAKE AN APPEARANCE AT THE PLACE YOU WORKED AT BEFORE?
HUH...
ALTHOUGH, I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING RECENTLY.
NOT AT ALL...
IT'S RARE...

I DON'T LIKE BEING DISTURBED
THAT WE BOTH HAVE THE SAME DAY OFF,
AND CAN ACTUALLY GO OUT LIKE THIS
AND
WHEN IT'S THAT OBVIOUS THAT ONE OF THEM IS AFTER YOU,
DO YOU THINK THE FOUR OF US COULD JUST HAPPILY DRINK TEA TOGETHER!?
AFTER ME?
THE GIRL WITH THE LONG HAIR?
YEAH
YEAH
COULD IT BE THE ONE WHO WANTED YOU TO SET US UP THAT TIME?
YEAH

brush...
AFTER WE PICK UP THE PHONES,
LET'S GO STRAIGHT HOME.

The feeling that made the junior Ryoko want me.

The feeling the sophomore me didn't know



The feeling of Yukari now,

and me,

FU...
LINH...
HEY...
WE SHOULDN'T DO THIS... IN THE ENTRY-WAY
MM...
COME INSIDE...
...Embracing.

HA
HA
SORRY
YUKARI,
WAIT
PRESS
JUST A
NNN
NN,
HA
SOMEHOW, TODAY,
I DON'T THINK I CAN PUT ON THE BRAKES
UNGH
CAN I
DO IT HERE AGAIN...?
PULL
HONEST-LY
NNN.
SUCH A DESPERATE EXPRES-SION.
ANYTHING'S FINE
HURRY

NNN
FU
HA,
FU
NNN
FU
creak
WHA AT?
FU,
UNGH
creak
SOMEHOW IT FEELS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE.
creak
NNNN
OTOUMI
DOES IT HURT...?
creak
N NO
creak
twitch
UNH,
NNN

NNN,
AH...
AH.
DON'T COVER YOUR MOUTH
HA.
AH
YUKARI...
HA,
NNN F.U.
NNN
AH.
ring ring

NOW TO ENTER PHONE NUMBERS...
AL-RIGHT!
IT WORKS
I PUT MY NUMBER IN YOUR CELL ALREADY
NEXT IS MY FAMILY'S.
AND WORK...
Type Type
HMM...
I DON'T KNOW MIURA'S WITHOUT CHECKING MY ADDRESS BOOK AT HOME
I'M TOO TIRED TO EVEN MOVE BUT HE'S.
Forget
MY HOME PHONE NUMBER IS IN HERE TOO
smack!
OW...!?

...HEY, WHAT!?
...FELT LIKE IT.
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY HITTING ME?
HUH?
?
Every time I notice this feeling...
DON'T GO TO SLEEP!
YOU CAN'T SAY YOU "FELT LIKE IT"!
I'm forced to recognize...
Just how much I like this guy
YOU'RE HEAVY...
IF YOU SAY "I'M VERY SORRY." THEN I'LL GET OFF.

END

It really was by chance...
17
That I happened to see it that day.
おすすめ!
事務所・店舗編
2LDK+S
おすすめ!
マンション
2LDK
おすすめ!
おすすめ!
"PERFECT FOR A SHOP OR OFFICE CONVENIENTLY NEAR TRAIN STATION
SECOND FLOOR HAS LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN, TWO BEDROOMS AND STOREROOM AND CAN BE USED AS A RESIDENCE
RENT IS 180 000 NEGOTIABLE CONSULTATION AND INTERVIEW REQUIRED. ENTHUSIASTIC YOUNG PEOPLE ARE WELCOME!"
WHAT'S ALL THAT ABOUT?

第17話
YAJIMA-KUN,
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE YOU STARTED WORKING HERE, RIGHT?
WELL? ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE SOME PRACTICAL PLANS FOR STRIKING OUT ON YOUR OWN SOON?
WELL, IN MY OWN WAY, I'M...
BUT MINE-SAN WHY ARE YOU POURING DRINKS?
In the middle of clearing up...
IT'S FINE

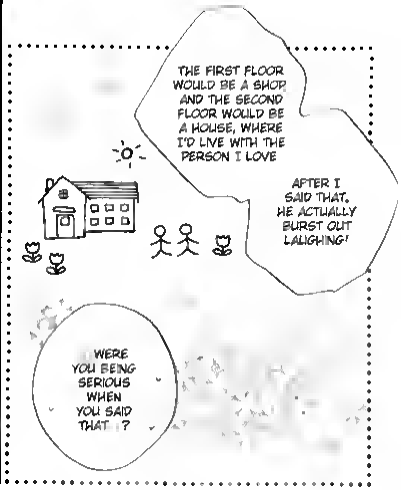
...I'LL NEED TO RIDE MY MOPED LATER, SO
IT'S BEST TO DO IT AFTER A FEW DRINKS
WHEN HAVING A CONVERSATION LIKE THIS
WOULDN'T IT BE OKAY TO LEAVE IT HERE?
HAVE YOUR FRIEND THAT LIVES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LET YOU STAY AT HIS PLACE TONIGHT
Well, I'd already planned on that myself. (He's selfish.)
SLEEPING WITH THE LIGHTS ON AGAIN...
S/9M
CLICK CLICK

lean
OTOUMI!!!...
HEEEY
sneak
2 2 2
GA
SP
!?
YUKARI
...!
BUT YOU WEREN'T WAKIN' UP, OTOUMI
cover
hah...
hah...
WE'RE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME...!?

MINE-SAN IS THE OWNER OF THE SHOP, RIGHT?
The place does have "Mine" in its name...
NN...
IT'S PAST FOUR O'CLOCK!
MINE-SAN MADE ME DRIIINK
WHAT TIME IS IT RIGHT NOW...?
DID YOU SHOW UP DRUNK?
You reek of alcohol.

I said you reek.
HOW MEAN YOU REJEC-TED ME
SERIOUSLY, HURTFUL THINGS KEEP HAPPENING TODAY...
MINE-SAN LAUGHED AT ME
HUH?
HE ASKED ME WHAT MY DREAM SHOP WOULD BE LIKE WHEN I TOLD HIM, HE LAUGHED
...DID SO-METHING HAPPEN?

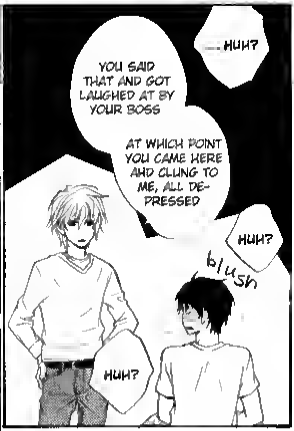
EVEN THOUGH HE TOLD ME TO PUT ASIDE THE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS AND JUST SAY IT...
EVEN I KNOW I DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR THAT THAT!
NO... HE PROBABLY WASN'T LAUGHING AT YOU FOR THAT.
AND GO TO SLEEP YOU'RE LOUD.


THE FIRST FLOOR WOULD BE A SHOP, AND THE SECOND FLOOR WOULD BE A HOUSE, WHERE I'D LIVE WITH THE PERSON I LOVE
AFTER I SAID THAT, HE ACTUALLY BURST OUT LAUGHING!
WERE YOU BEING SERIOUS WHEN YOU SAID THAT...?

pound
My head hurts...
pound
pound

HOW DID I GET TO YOUR PLACE AGAIN...?
IF YOU LEFT YOUR MOPED, THEN YOU MUST'VE WALKED HERE
YOU USED THE SPARE KEY TO COME IN LIKE USUAL
I DON'T REMEMBER...
YOUR DREAM IS A PLACE WHERE "THE FIRST FLOOR WOULD BE A SHOP,
AND THE SECOND FLOOR WOULD BE A HOUSE, WHERE YOU'D LIVE WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE..."

fidget
AH..
I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER TO SOBER UP


...HUH?
YOU SAID THAT AND GOT LAUGHED AT BY YOUR BOSS
AT WHICH POINT YOU CAME HERE AND CLUNG TO ME, ALL DEPRESSED
HUH?
blush
HUH?

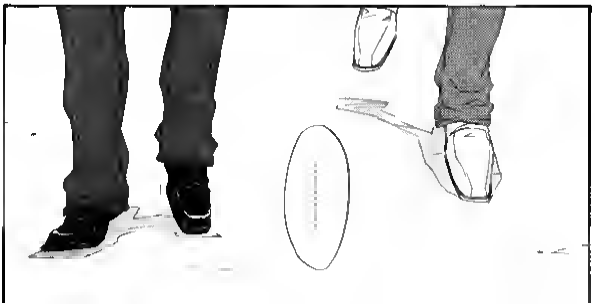
hurry

THE FIRST FLOOR WOULD BE A SHOP
AND THE SECOND FLOOR WOULD BE A HOUSE, HUH...
close
.....

I SAW SOMETHING THAT SEEMS CLOSE TO YOUR IDEAL PROPERTY
YUKARI
spray
knock knock
I SPOTTED IT YESTERDAY OUTSIDE THE REAL ESTATE AGENCY IN FRONT OF THE STATION

TO TELL THE TRUTH IT SEEMED PRETTY SUSPICIOUS OR SOMETHING
IT'S QUESTIONABLE
Sign. Real Estate
不動産
BUT DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A LOOK?
WELL?
.....

IT'S WAY TOO CHEAP ISN'T IT...? NO, 130 000 IS MORE THAN THAT. IT'S SUSPICIOUS
WHAT'S WITH THE INTERVIEW?
YEAH, THIS IS REALLY...
peek
BUT THE LAYOUT'S GOOD...
THE CLOSEST STATION IS
WELCOME! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A PLACE?
THERE ARE MORE BESIDE THE ONES POSTED UP
AH...
WE'RE JUST LOOKING
Thanks.



WHO KNOWS
WHAT DO YOU THINK "INTERVIEW" MEANT?
WHO KNOWS HUH?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A SPECIAL KIND OF PROPERTY
WHY DID IT READ LIKE A HELP-WANTED AD FROM THE MIDDLE ON?
I WONDER WHAT THE AREA AROUND IT IS LIKE

IS IT BOTHERING YOU?
NO
WELL..
BUT IT'S REALLY IS TOO SHADY...

IS IT OKAY NOT TO PICK UP YOUR MOPED FROM THE SHOP?
YUKARI
HM?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
THEN, GOOD NIGHT.
SPACING OUT WHEN YOU'RE RIDING WILL GET YOU INTO AN ACCIDENT.
UH-HUH.

On this path where coincidences are all piled up how far in the future will it be when we can see what things are necessary?

YUKARI?
HEY... IT'S SUDDEN, BUT CAN YOU DROP BY MY PLACE ON YOUR WAY HOME?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TALK.
YEAH, I'LL GO. I'LL GO
JUST WHEN I WANT TO SEE YOU AND TALK ABOUT SOMETHING
I GOT SOME TIME OFF THIS AFTERNOON AND WENT TO ASK AROUND AT THAT REAL ESTATE AGENCY
IT REALLY HAS BEEN BOTHERING ME SINCE THEN
WELL, THE SUSPICIOUS THINGS ARE STILL SUSPICIOUS,
BUT THE LOCATION WASN'T BAD. AND I'M STARTING TO THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT IT
THAT'S RIGHT YUKARI'S INITIATIVE AT TIMES LIKE THIS IS AMAZING

If maybe...
OH YEAH, YOU HAD SOMETHING TO SAY?
UH
OH IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT NEXT TIME.
slide
BUT YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO CALL ME OVER. WHAT IS IT?
AH, WHAT'S WITH THAT ENVELOPE?
DID YOU CALL ME BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME THAT?
SFX: rustle
NO... I SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK.
YUKARI...!

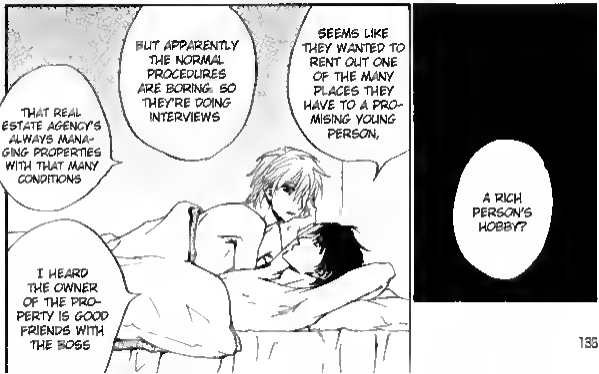
If you could let me think a coincidence that was related to me.

Was something necessary to this path that you're continuing on.

I THOUGHT SINCE IT WAS A PROPERTY I TOLD YOU ABOUT...
BUT... IT'S NOT LIKE I WENT TO ASK ABOUT IT IN DEPTH.
AND SINCE YOU WENT YOURSELF, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH, SO...

If a day like that comes,

I think that would be something to be happy about.


THAT REAL ESTATE AGENCY'S ALWAYS MANAGING PROPERTIES WITH THAT MANY CONDITIONS
BUT APPARENTLY THE NORMAL PROCEDURES ARE BORING. SO THEY'RE DOING INTERVIEWS
SEEMS LIKE THEY WANTED TO RENT OUT ONE OF THE MANY PLACES THEY HAVE TO A PROMISING YOUNG PERSON,
A RICH PERSON'S HOBBY?
I HEARD THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IS GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE BOSS

ARE YOU REALLY GOING FOR THE INTERVIEW?
THEN,
WELL I'VE BEEN SAYING IT'S SUSPICIOUS,
AND I DON'T KNOW IF I'LL MEET THEIR STANDARDS
BUT I FIGURED, INSTEAD OF BEING CONCERNED ABOUT IT AND HESITATING IT'S BETTER TO MAKE MY MOVE
...THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU
Please let this "coincidence"...

Be something
necessary for him.

··END··

第18話

●あとがき(その1)●

パンパなページですが、あとがきです。最終巻のあとがきなので、できればおつまみでも読みながら、ゆっくりと読んで頂けると嬉しいです。

――というわけで「蝶の羽つのは」最終巻、手に取って下さり、ありがとうございます！楽しんで頂けましたでしょうか？

カバーイラストでも言ってますが、「ティアグリーン」の話みたいから、ラストはみつつも早々。

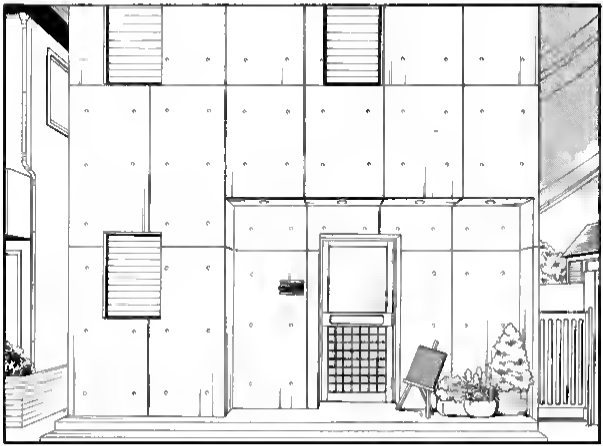
こんなに長くこのキャラ達を描くことになるとは思ってなかったです！

これもひとえに私を野放し(笑)にして下さったルチル編集部様のおかげです。

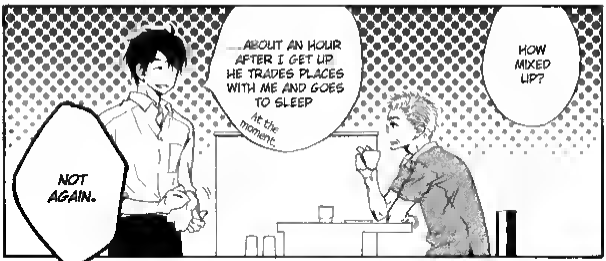
ルビのネームバリューのこと思うこともありましたが…本当に感謝です。

2人がくっついてからは、時間の流れが急激になってしまったのですが、作者までは、ひとつひとつの話が濃いと感じ…（あとがきはつづく）

I'VE EXPLAINED THE GIST OF IT, BUT DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?
ON THAT NOTE I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU,
NO, I'M FINE
THE DOCUMENT YOU GAVE ME AT THE VERY BEGINNING HAD A DRAWING OF THE SHOP ON IT.
DID YOU DRAW THAT YOURSELF?
NO, I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WORKS AT A DESIGN COMPANY
HE DREW IT ACCORDING TO WHAT I TOLD HIM
WOW.
WE SHOULD ALL HAVE SUCH GOOD FRIENDS
ALRIGHT, HERE'S THE KEY
SHIDA-CHAN THOUGHT YOU WERE WORTHY,
SO SET UP A GOOD SHOP.
I'LL DO MY BEST



OH
I FOUND IT ON THE BOOKSHELF
ISN'T THIS THE BLUEPRINT FROM BACK THEN?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ISN'T IT NOSTALGIC?
SO. WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE OTOUMI WHO DREW THIS?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM ONE BIT LATELY
BACK THEN, WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT, YOU SAID A FRIEND DREW IT FOR YOU.
IT REALLY IS.
clack
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD COME OUT AT A POINT LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE I HAD PRETTY MUCH JUST MET.
WHAT A RELIEF. HUH THAT SHIDA-CHAN AND I ARE BOTH UNDERSTANDING OLD GEEZERS.
HE'S GOTTEN DAY AND NIGHT A BIT MIXED UP AT THE MOMENT...


HOW MIXED UP?
—ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER I GET UP HE TRADES PLACES WITH ME AND GOES TO SLEEP
At the moment.
NOT AGAIN.

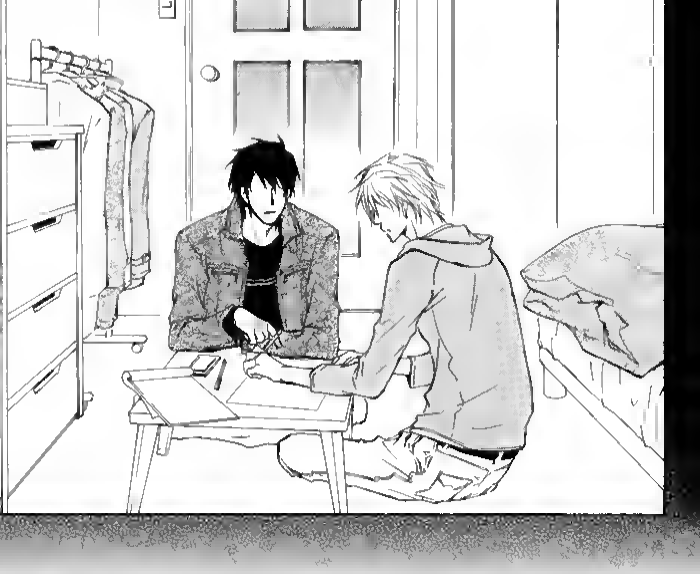
BUT AREN'T YOU SPOILING THAT GUY TOO MUCH?
I DON'T WANT TO SAY SOMETHING INSENSITIVE.
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, WHEN OTOUMI GETS LIKE THIS ALL HIS FOCUS GOES INTO WORK
AND HE COMPLETELY NEGLECTS EVERYDAY CONCERNS, RIGHT?
AND THE REASON YOU GUYS ORIGINALLY STARTED LIVING TOGETHER.
RING RING
GOOD WORK TODAY!

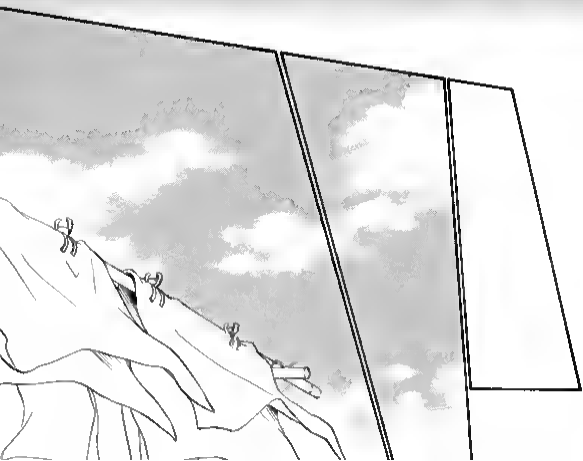
HUHP IT'S RARE FOR YOU TO BE HERE AT THIS HOUR, AKIKAWA-SAN
OH, SAE-CHAN, GOOD WORK
OH.
CLOSED
STRETCH
NN...!

YUKARI?
HUH...?
CLOSE
Slide
DID YOU EAT THE FOOD I LEFT ON THE TABLE?
HUH ?
EXACTLY.
DID YOU JUST CLOSE UP? IT'S THAT LATE ALREADY?
SORRY.
I'LL GO EAT IT NOW.
In my room.
YEAH, DO THAT.

WHENEVER I LOOK AT IT, IT LOOKS LIKE A BIRD'S NEST
The table on the side is a place for miscellaneous things.
CAN YOU PUT IT THERE?
OTOUMI, COFFEE
HYPO
SYP
HYPO
HYPO
THANKS
Truthfully, it's not like I don't have any thoughts about Otoumi, who gets so immersed in things.
THINGS LIKE "AT LEAST POUR YOURSELF A NEW CUP WHEN YOU FINISH," OR,
"WHY CAN'T YOU WASH THE THINGS YOU USE?"
ANYWAY, THE SHOP'S CLOSED TOMORROW. I'LL JUST LEAVE THIS UNTIL THEN AND DO IT ALL AT ONCE
clank
A FORM TO SCREEN APPLICANTS?

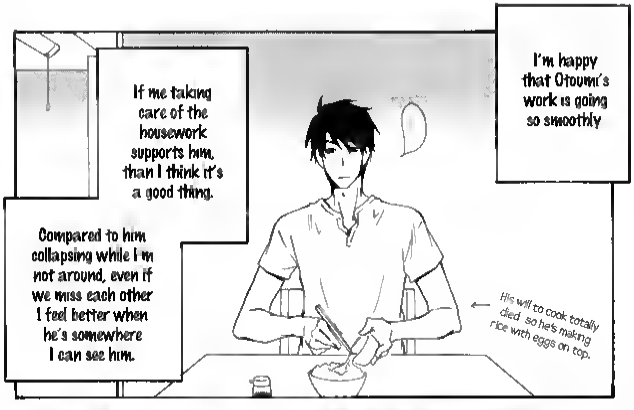
WELL, IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO NARROW DOWN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THEY INTERVIEW
Even with a suspicious property like this.
WELL THE CONDITIONS ARE REALLY GOOD.
YEAH!
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE ARE WAY MORE APPLICANTS THAN THEY PREDICTED
IT ASKS FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFO, YOUR ENTHUSIASM TOWARDS YOUR PROJECT, AND A CONCRETE PLAN,
AND YOU HAVE TO DO IT ALL IN THREE DAYS.
WELL, ROUGHLY.
ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE STORE LAYOUT PRETTY SET?
THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE YOUR SPECIFIC VISION BETTER WITH THIS, EVEN THOUGH IT'S OFF THE FORM
IF WE MAKE A CLEAN COPY OF IT, WE CAN PROBABLY HAND IT IN WITH YOUR DOCUMENTS
WANNA TRY PUTTING IT ON PAPER WITH THIS?
?
FAFL

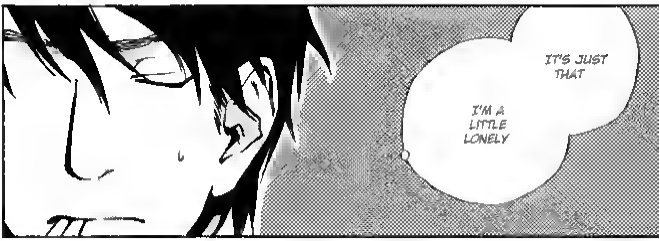




wave
wave
It probably wasn't just that time when
if Otoumi hadn't been there to do something, I might not be here with my own shop right now
On the other hand, it's not like I can help Otoumi with his work.
WELL THEN,
GUESS I'LL EAT WHILE THE SECOND LOAD IS GETTING WASHED
TO SUM UP, I'M JUST TIDYING THINGS UP
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DOING THE HOUSEWORK IN PLACE OF THAT

step
step
step
step
beep
beep
YEAH
knock knock
HEY OTOUMI, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LITTLE BREAK?
GO SHOWER WHILE I MAKE LUNCH
lean
direct
SORRY, I HAVE TO FINISH THIS IN TIME FOR THE MEETING THESE GUYS ARE HAVING TODAY
AH...
I SEE. THEN WORK HARD...


I'm happy that Otouni's work is going so smoothly
If me taking care of the housework supports him, than I think it's a good thing.
Compared to him collapsing while I'm not around, even if we miss each other I feel better when he's somewhere I can see him.
His will to cook totally died, so he's making rice with eggs on top.



When we're under the same roof,

I wonder if it's a luxury to think that Otouni would occasionally, just occasionally,

take a rare break so we can hold each other

And suppressing my desires...
Over-thinking everything.
Those are all the things Akiyama-san sees as me "spoiling" Otouto.
IT'LL BE SCARY IF I MAKE A WRONG MOVE
ONCE I START THINKING I'LL INTERRUPT HIS WORK I CAN'T DO IT
clink
clink
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL BEING A PUSHOVER IN LOVE?

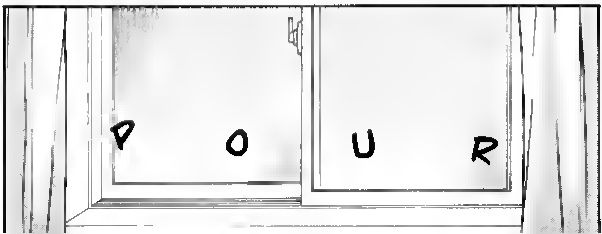
WELL, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT ON YOUR END THEN.
DID YOU OPEN THE FILE?
YES
YES

HE'S SLEEPING
I GUESS THAT MEANS HE FINISHED CLEANING UP
RECENTLY, I'VE BEEN LEAVING THE HOUSEWORK TO HIM MORE THAN USUAL
I WAS BUSY WITH ENDLESS PROJECTS
IT FEELS LIKE.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
SINCE I JUST STARED AT YUKIARI'S FACE LIKE THIS.
daze

AH...
I SHOULD COVER HIM WITH SOMETHING...
breathe
SMACK
PUSH
A BLANKET WOULD BE TOO HOT
MAYBE A SHEET...
!
NNN.
?
OTOUMI?
WHAT THE...

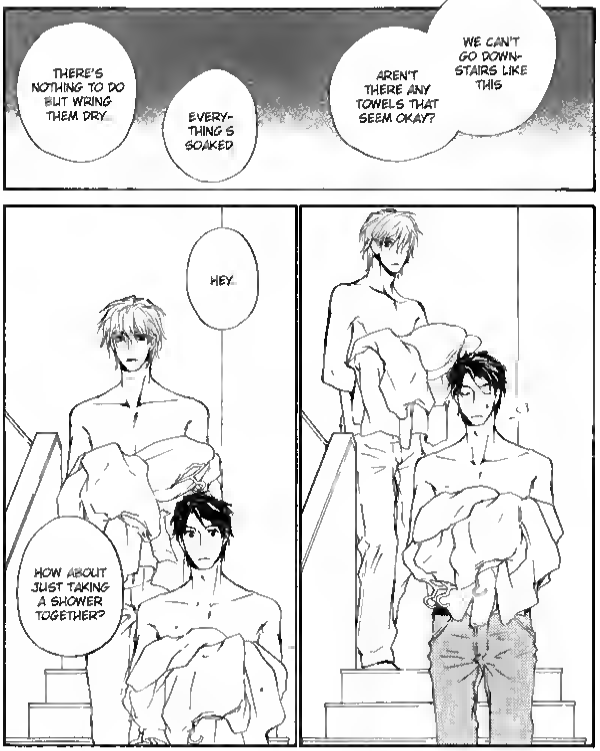
SORRY
IT'S OKAY, I WAS JUST NAPPING.
THANKS TO YOU.
DID YOU COME TO A STOPPING POINT WITH WORK?
AND, UH... I'M SORRY I COMPLETELY LEFT EVERYTHING UP TO YOU.
I WASN'T VERY USEFUL FROM THE START,
BUT THIS TIME I'M SURE I CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE

I ALREADY KNOW YOU'RE NOT MUCH HELP WHEN YOU'RE BUSY
DON'T GO MAKING SUCH A TIMID EXPRESSION NOW
IDIOT
whap
BESIDES,
RAIN!
IF YOUR WORK IS DONE THEN FROM...
TOMORROW ON...
?


POUR

BAM
RAIN!?
BAM
BAM
SFX : SHAKE
SFX : POUR
BAM
THE LAUNDRY I HUNG UP...!
BAM

SFX & POLR
ザー
I THOUGHT IT SAID 0% CHANCE OF RAIN...
JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE THINGS INSIDE!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
Wah
!!
slam
pull
slam
grab
grab
SLAM
THESE ALL DEFINITELY HAVE TO BE REWASHED
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS AND REWASH THEM TOMORROW
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip


WE CAN'T GO DOWN-STAIRS LIKE THIS
AREN'T THERE ANY TOWELS THAT SEEM OKAY?
EVERY-THING'S SOAKED
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT WRING THEM DRY
HEY
HOW ABOUT JUST TAKING A SHOWER TOGETHER?

RING
HEY NOW, YAJIMA.
SO JUST AS THE LAST CUSTOMER OTHER THAN ME LEAVES, YOU LET OUT A BIG YAWN, HUH?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YAWN.
EXCUSE ME.

WERE YOU NOT ABLE TO REST VERY WELL ON YOUR DAY OFF YESTERDAY?
I GUESS NOT.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S CALLED MY DAY OFF, I USUALLY GET DESTROYED FINISHING THE CHORES I'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF.
AND EVEN WORSE, THE RAIN ANNIHILATED THE LAUNDRY I DID IN NO TIME.
AH, THAT RAIN WAS AMAZING.

YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE IF YOU HAD TAKEN COVER FOR A WHILE.
I DIDN'T THINK A DOWNPOUR LIKE THAT WOULD STOP SO QUICKLY!
Clink
I WAS OUT AND ABOUT AND PANICKED, BUT WHEN I BOUGHT AN UMBRELLA AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE, THE RAIN WENT AND STOPPED IMMEDIATELY!
I FELT LIKE I REALLY LOST SOMETHING.
THAT RED ONE
DOESN'T IT ITCH?
AH... THIS?
IT'S NOT A BUG BITE, SO I'M FINE.
BOSS, IS THAT A BUG BITE?
AH?
BY YOUR COLLAR-BONE

?
...AH!!
I'M SORRY FOR BLURTING OUT WEIRD THINGS!
THINKING ABOUT IT CAREFULLY, THAT'S WHAT IT IS!
HEY...
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU HAVE TO BOW OVER...
Isn't it more polite to pretend you didn't see it...?
bow
bow
bow
A MARK NEAR THE NAPE OF YOU NECK IS PRETTY MUCH ALWAYS THAT!

After that, three years slowly passed,

with Otoumi right next to me.

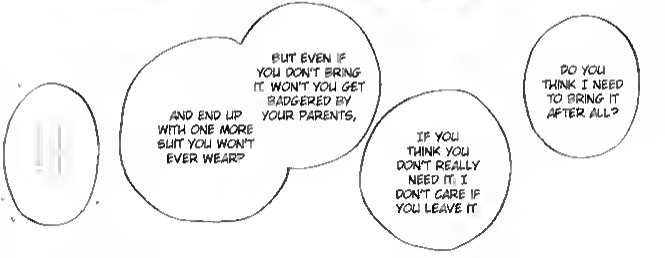
EVEN SO, YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS PRETTY PASSIONATE!
SHUU
SO OTOUMI'S FINALLY BEEN RESURRECTED, HUH? HOW NICE FOR YOU YAJIMA.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU ACTUALLY HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BOSS!

-•END•-

第19話

...YEAH.
WE'LL GET TO THE STATION IN THE EVENING.
BUT I NEED TO STOP AT HOME TO DROP MY BAGS OFF.
YEAH.
THEN WE'LL MEET AT SEVEN.

RYOKO?
SURE
YEAH
WE DECIDED TO MEET AT SEVEN. YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT, RIGHT?
MORE IMPORTANTLY YOU LEFT YOUR SUIT UPSTAIRS
OH...


DO YOU THINK I NEED TO BRING IT AFTER ALL?
BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T BRING IT WON'T YOU GET BADGERED BY YOUR PARENTS,
AND END UP WITH ONE MORE SUIT YOU WON'T EVER WEAR?
IF YOU THINK YOU DON'T REALLY NEED IT, I DON'T CARE IF YOU LEAVE IT

The one who brought up the idea of going back home together was Yukari.
Closed from August 17th to 21st for summer break
Ippakutei
With my work finished and Obon* having just ended,

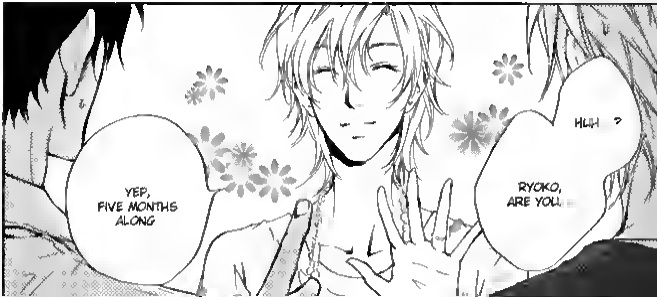
*Obon - a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the departed (deceased) spirits of one's ancestors.

We were talking about not having seen Ryoko together for a while.
I HOPE YOU GUYS DIDN'T MIND ME CALLING YOU OUT AS SOON AS YOU CAME BACK
IT'S REALLY BEEN FOREVER!

JUST YUKARI
I'LL HAVE TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH FAMILY STARTING TOMORROW
IT'S FINE
UM... THREE BEERS FOR NOW
?

Hm?

AH, SORRY
Yes.
MAKE ONE OF THOSE AN OOLONG TEA

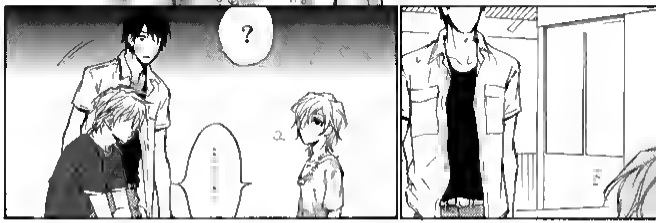

YEP, FIVE MONTHS ALONG
HUH ?
RYOKO, ARE YOU...

Other than this, nothing special will happen and this will be a completely normal trip home.
Or that's how it should have been.
IT'S OKAY I WANTED TO COME TO AN IZAKAYA, SINCE I HAVEN'T GONE IN A WHILE.
WE WOULD'VE PICKED ANOTHER PLACE THEN...
YOU... ANNOUNCE THINGS LIKE THAT SOONER!
SO THAT'S WHY SHE'S WEARING LOOSE CLOTHES
Thanks.
Congratulations.
HUH?
GOING TO MEET A MARRIAGE PROSPECT?
YAJIMA?
WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, IT'S BECAUSE MY PARENTS FORCIBLY ARRANGED IT...
HUH ? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
I MEAN, YOU TWO ARE...
OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YUKARI'S THE KIND OF USELESS GUY WHO CAN'T REJECT ANYTHING

IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT
THEY TOLD ME ABOUT IT RIGHT BEFORE THE MEETING
THE DATE AND TIME S ALREADY SET, AND IT WOULD BE RUDE TO THE OTHER PARTY IF I CANCELLED
UM.
DIDN'T YOU SAY BEFORE THAT MEETING SOMEONE WHEN YOU DON T HAVE THOSE INTEN-TIONS IS RUDE?
I HAVEN'T REALLY EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF,
BUT WHEN YOU HAVE A LOVER S SPAT SO NATURALLY LIKE THIS
IT REALLY DOES SEEM LIKE YOU'RE DATING DOESN'T IT?
UH... I'M GOING TO THE BATHROOM.
stand
...IS THIS OKAY?

IF YOU SERIOUSLY TRIED TO STOP HIM,
YAJIMA WOULD DECIDE NOT TO GO, RIGHT, KOU-KUN?
PROBABLY
IT'S JUST FOR SHOW BUT YAJIMA ACTUALLY GOING TO MEET A MARRIAGE PROSPECT
THERE CAN'T BE ANYTHING PLEASANT ABOUT IT
MAYBE...
I MIGHT BE THINKING TOO MUCH ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS
IF YOU REALLY THINK THAT, THEN STOP PICKING ON YAJIMA.
JUST TELL HIM CLEARLY!

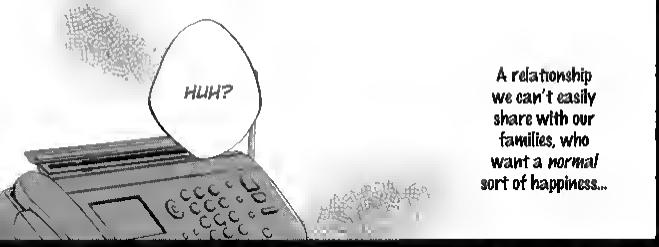
YOU THINK YOU WANT TO BE WITH YAJIMA FOREVER, DON'T YOU?
BUT,
BECAUSE YOU'RE BOTH MEN?


?

PROBABLY HAVE A HEALTHY KID
NEXT TIME WE MEET WILL PROBABLY BE AFTER I'VE GIVEN BIRTH
YEAH I'LL LET YOU GUYS KNOW WHEN I COME BACK NEXT TIME

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING WITH YOUR MARRIAGE MEETING TOMORROW?
IT'S STILL EARLY SO WE COULD GO TO ANOTHER PLACE
MY STORE.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
BE A GOOD BOY AND GO HOME AND SLEEP
V R O O M
HUH...? YOU'RE JUST NOW DECIDING NOT TO GET IN?
OKAY...
SORRY, PLEASE DRIVE.
I'M WALKING HOME.
HEY, GET IN.
...HEY, OTOUMI...!
V R O O M

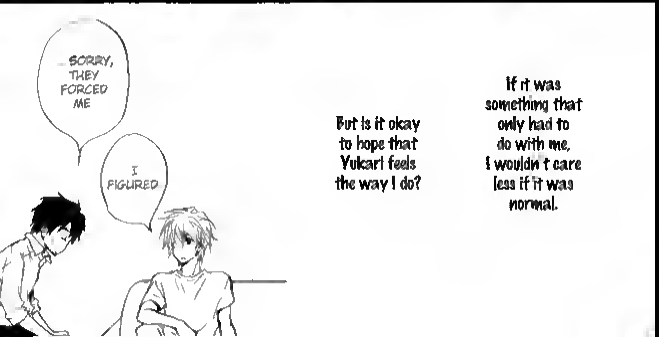
MY BEHAVIOR IS TERRIBLE
IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF...
Just like Kyoko said,
even if it's just for show, there's no way Yukari going to meet a marriage prospect would be pleasant.
I get in the habit of forgetting that
When I'm with others who so cheerfully accept us,
Deep down, I feel more than a little guilty about us both being men.
Even so, the reason I don't try to stop him is that...



A relationship we can't easily share with our families, who want a *normal* sort of happiness...

If it was something that only had to do with me, I wouldn't care less if it was normal.

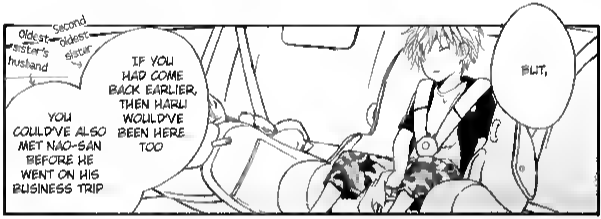
But is it okay to hope that Yukari feels the way I do?

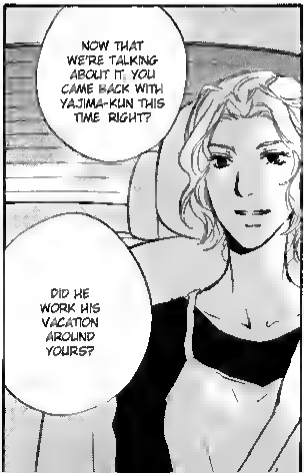


IN THE END THIS IS YUKARI'S CALL
AND IT ISN'T YUKARI'S STYLE TO SLIGHT HIS PARENTS
HOW ANNOYING
A RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT A SINGLE OBSTACLE IS A DREAM, HUH?
"But,
You think you want to be with Yajima forever, don't you?"

HUH?
YOU'RE TAKING ME HOME KOU?
MOM'S CAR HAS A CHILD SEAT RIGHT?
I'LL GO BORROW THE KEYS
YOU DON'T MIND? I WAS PLANNING ON CALLING A CAB TO TAKE ME HOME
IT'S FINE I WANT TO DO SOME SHOPPING
ZZZ ZZZ
BESIDES, IT'D BE DIFFICULT TO GET THEM UP TO THEIR ROOMS WITH THEM SLEEPING SO SOUNDLY
WHEN YOU SAY SHOPPING YOU MEAN AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE?
YEAH
THEN MAYBE I'LL COME WITH YOU

MOM, LEND ME THE CAR KEYS
I'M GOING TO BUY PORN
WHAT IN YOUR WAY? BUT... IT'S JUST THE CONVENIENCE STORE
YOU'LL BE IN MY WAY, AKANE, SO YOU CAN'T COME


Oldest sister's husband
Second oldest sister
YOU COULD'VE ALSO MET NAO-SAN BEFORE HE WENT ON HIS BUSINESS TRIP
IF YOU HAD COME BACK EARLIER, THEN HARU WOULD'VE BEEN HERE TOO
BUT,


NOW THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IT, YOU CAME BACK WITH YAJIMA-KUN THIS TIME RIGHT?
DID HE WORK HIS VACATION AROUND YOURS?

I'M NEVER REALLY ON THE SAME CALENDAR AS COMPANY EMPLOYEES WITH MY WORK
THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT.
HM.

WE HAVE A MUTUAL FRIEND HERE THAT WE THOUGHT WE'D MEET UP WITH.
WELL...
MOM WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW COLD YOU WERE BEING,
LEAVING THE MOMENT YOU RETURNED
AH,
SO THAT'S WHY YOU WENT OUT TO DINNER LAST NIGHT?
I DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND,
IF YOU'RE COMING ANYWAY, BRING YOUR GIRL-FRIEND INSTEAD OF A FRIEND. HOW ABOUT LETTING MOM AND THEM WORRY LESS?
AND I DON'T PLAN ON FINDING ONE.

WHY?
BECAUSE I'M DATING YUKARI.
HUH...?
YOU MEAN...
YAJIMA-KUN...?
YOU'RE NOT SAYING THAT TO TEASE ME. ARE YOU...?
HAVE I EVER DONE SOMETHING THAT STUPID?
!!
NO WAY!!

SINCE WHEN?
WAS IT WHEN YOU STARTED LIVING TOGETHER?
BEFORE THAT...
IS IT SERIOUS?
I WOULDN'T TELL YOU IF IT WASN'T.
ARE YOU PLANNING ON TELLING MOM AND DAD SOMEDAY?
IF IT GETS TO BE NECESSARY...
...SO
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS

I'M TELLING YOU NOW, SHIORI-NEE, BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE ON OUR SIDE.
YOU MUST BE SERIOUS
Now I know why you didn't bring Akane along

IF YOU PLAN ON TELLING MOM AND DAD, GET AKANE ON YOUR SIDE TOO.
THAT KID IS PROBABLY THE STRONGEST ONE OF US IN THIS FAMILY.
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO HELPED ME WHEN I WAS GOING THROUGH MY MARRIAGE PROBLEMS.
WELL, AKANE DOES HAVE A BIT OF A BROTHER COMPLEX.
SO SHE ACTUALLY MIGHT BE STUBBORN ABOUT THIS.

HERE YUKI, WE'RE HOME
SAY GOOD-NIGHT TO KOU-CHAN
KOU-CHA..
rub
GUNIT...
SWAY
YEAH, GOOD-NIGHT
SWAY
WELL THEN,
THANKS FOR TAKING US HOME
GOODNIGHT
s
h
u
t

FLIP
HM...
THINKING
HELLO?
GOOD WORK ON THE MARRIAGE MEETING.
DID YOU CALL JUST TO SAY SOMETHING UNPLEASANT?
SIGH
NO... THAT'S NOT IT
SORRY

I WANT. .
TO TELL YOU I TOLD MY OLDEST SISTER ABOUT US
I CALLED
HUH. . . ?
TO SEE YOUR FACE
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD COME MEET ME NOW
HUH? NOW?
END

20
MOM,
I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT
step
step
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, THIS LATE AT NIGHT?
YOU DON T HAVE TO SEE EACH OTHER EVERY DAY WHEN YOU'RE BACK ANYWAY, WHEN YOU LEAVE THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, YOU TWO CAN...
WAIT, YUKARI!
SEE YOU!
S H U T
OTOUMI-KUN?
DON'T WORRY I'M JUST GOING OUT TO GET SOME TEA WITH OTOUMI

第20話

SORRY, DID YOU WAIT LONG?
NO NOT REALLY
OPEN
squeak

VROOM
YUKARI, IS THERE ANY PLACE YOU WANT TO GO?
THEN WE'LL SEE WHERE WE END UP.
HUH? NO... NOT REALLY...
I only came out because of your call.
Blu-
YEAH SORRY FOR ACTING ON MY OWN
IT'S NOT REALLY SOMETHING YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR, BUT WHY SO SUDDENLY?
SO YOU SAID YOU TOLD YOUR OLDEST SISTER ABOUT US...?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

YOUR MARRIAGE MEETING
RATHER THAN SAY THAT'S THE REASON,
IT WAS JUST THE FIRST STEP
HUH...!?
That?
I WAS THINKING THAT FROM NOW ON, THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP TALKING TO US ABOUT MARRIAGE.
DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP, OBVIOUSLY.
YOUR FAMILY.
AND THE PEOPLE IN MY FAMILY.
EVEN IF WE CHOOSE TO KEEP IT FROM OUR PARENTS,
THAT'S NOT GOING TO GO AWAY.
WELL, WE'RE ALREADY AT THAT AGE

I SEE
IT'S PROBABLY REASSURING TO HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER THERE THAT UNDERSTANDS
IF WE END UP NOT BEING ABLE TO KEEP IT A SECRET,
I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS, SO I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT
MORE OR LESS
SHIORI-NEE HAS FOUGHT WITH OUR PARENTS BEFORE, TOO.
SHE EVEN SUGGESTED THAT IF I'M GOING TO TRY AND PERSUADE THEM, I SHOULD HAVE MY YOUNGER SISTER ON OUR SIDE
HUH
—THEN, DOES THAT THAT MEAN YOUR SISTER SEEMED LIKE SHE UNDERSTOOD?

RYOKO ASKED ME YESTERDAY,
"YOU THINK YOU WANT TO BE WITH YAJIMA FOREVER, DON'T YOU?"
HONESTLY, BEFORE SHE ASKED THAT, I'D NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT ANYTHING SPECIFIC.
I COULDN'T IMAGINE...
BUT WHEN I ACTUALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT,
NOT BEING WITH YOU, OR LOVING SOMEONE ELSE LIKE THIS

STOP THE CAR.
WAIT...
WAIT... OTOUMI, STOP!
OTOUMI
?
YOU JUST SAID SOMETHING AMAZING SO DIRECTLY
NO, I MEAN

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME YOU SAID "LOVE," YOU KNOW?
...HUH...?
...IS THAT SO...?
HUH?
True Yukon would completely remember.
HEY
click
IF YOU'D SAID IT BEFORE, I DEFINITELY WOULD REMEMBER.
YEAH!
.....!
ONE MORE TIME

WHY
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
NOT "AFTER ALL THIS TIME" WASN'T JUST NOW THE FIRST TIME?
THEN ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?
I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT ME AND SAY IT PROPERLY!
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU MADE ME WAIT? SAYING IT ISN'T THAT
.....

SHOULD WE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE...?
YEAH...

I TOLD MY PARENTS I'M GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE
AFTER THE MARRIAGE MEETING TODAY
TRUTHFULLY, I ALSO...

... WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AFTER?
I TOLD HER TO JUST GIVE ME A BREAK... WELL, I WAS A LITTLE FORCEFUL
MY MOM KEPT BOTHERING ME
WANTING ME TO TELL HER ALL ABOUT HOW IT WENT WITH THE PERSON I MET
OF COURSE, I DIDN'T GO AS FAR AS TO SAY IT WAS YOU
WHAT'S MORE YOU'RE AN ONLY CHILD
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY OF A CONVERSATION.
I GUESS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE IF I'D SAID IT
BUT IF YOU TOLD YOUR SISTER,
NO I DIDN'T TELL MY PARENTS EITHER
BUT
I'M WITH YOU ON THIS
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT

I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO THINK ABOUT...
ANYONE OTHER THAN YOU, OTOUMI...

... IT'S NOT REALLY RELAXING HERE
Two guys holding hands
IT'LL BE FINE WE'RE OUT HERE IN THE DARK
THE FIRST CONFESSION, PLUS THE FIRST TIME WE HOLD HANDS (IN PUBLIC)...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S LIKE WE JUST STARTED DATING?
YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY...
I LOVE YOU.

I DO TOO...
YEAH
SHOCK
へへっ
へへっ
へへっ

HELLO?
...AKANE?
AH... WHAT'S UP?
CONVENIENCE STORE...?
AH, NO, I'M GOING NOW.
I DON'T REALLY MIND, BUT... ICE CREAM? WHAT KIND?
...SORRY.
YOUR LITTLE SISTER TOLD YOU TO GO BUY ICE CREAM?
YEAH... I SAID I WAS GOING TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE WHEN I LEFT.
WE TOOK A WHILE, SO YOU SHOULD PROBABLY BUY IT FAST AND GO HOME.
WE HAVE TO GET YOUR LITTLE SISTER ON OUR SIDE, AFTER ALL.
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
I look like an idiot
Even I myself think that...

Even though...
We've already been living together for a year and a half.
YUKARI
I still can't believe...

We've become this inseparable.
END

第21話

●あとがき(その2)●

そして、1年弱ほど経って(結構かかりました)単行本「ティアドロップ・グリーン」に収録されている今作も以降となりました。ここまでお付き合いは是非読んでみて下さいませ▶(くれの)

たまに自分で描いてて気恥ずかしくなる程青くていい人たちでしたが楽しかったし大好きです。もちろんしょうもない反抗期もあるのですが悔いはないです。いくつになっても青みをおびない描いてしまえたらいいなぁ…。

反省点は今後に生かす!ということで。最後まで読んでくださいありがとうございました。またどこかでお会いできれば幸いです!

Special Thanks!

てぶえん。弓矢さん、麻雀堂さん、順子さん、梅本さん、レヴリル、友スマさん、担当T本様、編集長、O本様、and you!!

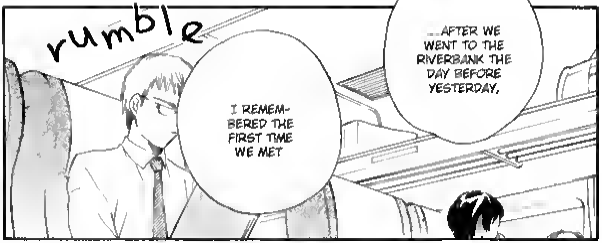
2009 國森ひょうたろう

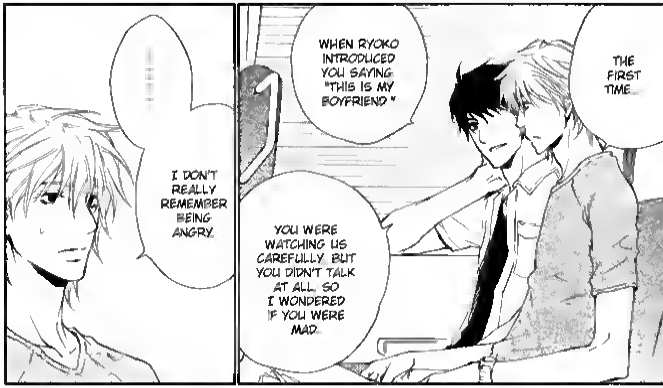
S E T
HUH? YAJIMA?
HEY
WHY'D YOU COME BACK TO SCHOOL? FORGET SOMETHING?
I WAS STAYING BEHIND TO PREPARE FOR THE SPORTS FESTIVAL BUT I GOT HUNGRY...
OH, I JUST WENT TO THE CONVENIENCE STORE TO BUY SOMETHING TO EAT
AH, I SEE SO, YOU'RE ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE?
HEY ISN'T THIS A LITTLE TOO MUCH? CAN YOU EAT IT ALL?
SEE?

THE MINUTE I SAID I WAS GOING TO THE STORE, THE OTHER GUYS ASKED FOR STUFF
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO BE SO OBVIOUS?
WON'T YOU GET SCOLDED IF THE TEACHERS FIND IT?
IT SHOULD BE FINE
MOTOMURA
AH,
SORRY, I'M COMING RIGHT NOW!
OTOUMI FROM CLASS 5—?
RYOKO, ARE YOU GOING HOME TOGETHER? ARE YOU TWO GOOD FRIENDS?
HAHAHA, ACTUALLY

I HUMBLY PRESENT MY BOYFRIEND
SERI-OUSLY!?
NO WAY SINCE WHEN?
Heh.
PRETTY RECENTLY
IT'S A LITTLE AWK-WARD SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER
I've only told Mari-chan. No one else knows yet.
NO IT'S FINE
stare
BUT OTOUMI FROM CLASS 5...
I KNEW YOU CARED A LOT ABOUT LOOKS BUT...
LET IT GO!
AH
SORRY, OTOUMI-KUN, I GOT CAR-RIED AWAY TALKING.

HI! I'M YAJIMA YUKARI
AH
NICE TO MEET YOU ♪
THIS IS YAJIMA FROM MY CLASS
WE WERE IN THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL, TOO
But we became close during 9th school
HOLD ON...
HAVE OTOUMI CALL YOU "RYOKO" TOO
EVEN THOUGH YOUR BOY-FRIEND OTOUMI CALLS YOU "MOTOMURA,"
THE FACT THAT I CALL YOU "RYOKO"
NO IT'S OKAY
I'M SO SORRY HE SAID SOMETHING WEIRD
BYE YAJIMA!
GEEZ, WE'RE LEAVING!
We just started dating!
DON'T SAY WEIRD THINGS SO SUDDENLY


rumble
I REMEMBERED THE FIRST TIME WE MET
...AFTER WE WENT TO THE RIVERBANK THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.


I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER BEING ANGRY.
YOU WERE WATCHING US CAREFULLY BUT YOU DIDN'T TALK AT ALL. SO I WONDERED IF YOU WERE MAD.
WHEN RYOKO INTRODUCED YOU SAYING "THIS IS MY BOYFRIEND."
THE FIRST TIME...

AHAHA. I GUESS SO
I can see that now.
BUT THE MOOD OF YOUR CONVERSATION WAS GOOD,
AND I GET THE FEELING I WAS KIND OF IN AWE

At that time, I definitely never would've imagined that Yajima and I would be in this kind of relationship now

YEAH

I couldn't even imagine my own future.

Never mind thinking about a "special someone."

HA...
WE'RE HOME...
CLICK
THIS PLACE REALLY FEELS LIKE HOME ALREADY...
OH
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
PULL
?
WHAT?
BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES...

JUST RESUPPLYING A BIT...
.....
BUT WE CAN'T IN THE ENTRY-WAY
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO WAIT UNTIL WE GO INSIDE
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN "RE-SUPPLY-ING"
BECAUSE I DIDN'T GET TO TOUCH YOU ENOUGH THE OTHER DAY AT THE RIVER-BANK

...I'LL GET IN THE SHOWER RIGHT NOW...

IN MY ROOM AFTER THAT OKAY...?
YEAH...
NNN...
!
NN
FU...
Pant
Pant
Pant
OTOUMI, YOU SHOULD WAIT...!
WAH...!
!
NN...
HNN...
grab

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TOUCH MINE
WHY?
UH... SEE, I'VE BEEN PENT UP SINCE WE WENT HOME THE OTHER DAY.
I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO HOLD IT IN.
...I THINK THAT GOES FOR BOTH OF US
LOOK
T U G
!
WHOA.
PRETTY ENERGETIC, OTOUMI-SAN
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT GOES FOR BOTH OF US
LET'S GET OFF LIKE THIS WITH OUR HANDS ONCE FIRST

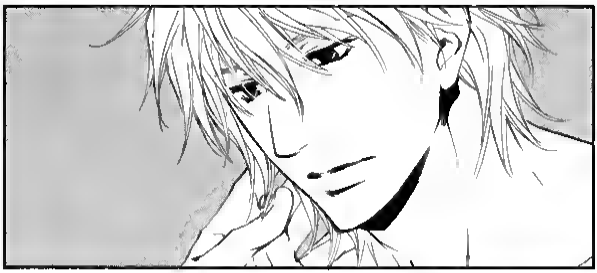
I never predicted a single thing.

or that, skin on skin,
our bodies joined,
AH...
I WANT TO PUT IT IN
I WANT TO PUT IT INSIDE YOU
slip
HA...
NNN'
NN
NNN...
we'd end up feeling this way.

But I know that...

now, and into the future,
OTOUMI
HUH.
PULL
IS YOUR BODY STILL UP FOR IT?
WAH.
twitch
YUKARI
YOU RE-COVER TOO QUICKLY...
HAHAHA. MY COULD IT BE THE POWER OF LOVE?
YOU... WE CAN'T DO ANY-THING LIKE THIS...
stand
MORON.

everything with Yukari
that I couldn't predict...

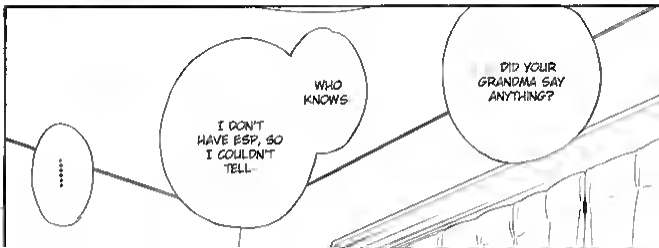


Will be something I can
keep thinking of as precious.

TO TELL THE TRUTH YESTERDAY...
IT WAS ONLY TO ONE PERSON IN MY FAMILY, BUT...
I TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT BEING WITH YOU, OTOUMI
HUH...
...TO WHO...
HUH ..!?
MY DEAD GRANDMA.
SMILE

Just a joke huh...
Huh
HAHA, DID I SCARE YOU?
WHEN I WENT TO VISIT HER GRAVE YESTERDAY,
I SAID IT SECRETLY IN MY HEART.

AFTER ALL,
I REALLY FELT LIKE TELLING SOMEONE IN MY FAMILY


DID YOUR GRANDMA SAY ANYTHING?
WHO KNOWS
I DON'T HAVE ESP, SO I COULDN'T TELL

Now, and into
the future.

Vibrate
Vibrate

FROM RYOKO ?
A TEXT...
!
T O S S
step
step
step
step
shut

SEEMS LIKE BUSINESS IS GOING UNUSUALLY WELL TODAY.
HEY, YAJIMA.
HA HA HA
WELCOME, AKIKAWA-SAN
THANKS TO YOU.
BUT SAYING "UNUSUALLY" IS A BIT UNNECESSARY.

YUKARI
DID YOU GET THE TEXT?
OPEN
AS I THOUGHT, PEOPLE WANT TO DRINK A CUP OF HOT COFFEE ON COLD DAYS LIKE THIS
IS YOUR USUAL BLENDED COFFEE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, PLEASE

SILENCE
UH...
...OH...
RYOKO HAD HER KID
SERI-OUSLY!?
HEY
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, OTOUMI...?
worry
worry
SORRY
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU GOT THE TEXT TOO...
AH I TURNED OFF THE SOUND AND THE VIBRA-TION ON MY PHONE
WHAT TEXT?
PLEASE EXCUSE ME

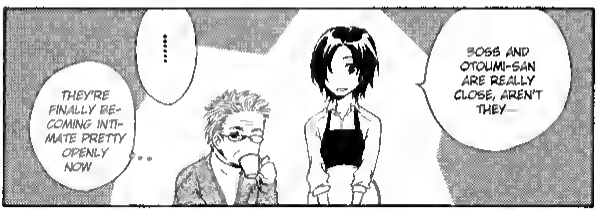
SO WHAT IS IT, A BOY OR A GIRL?
SHE SAID IT'S A GIRL,
AND THAT "SHE WAS BORN ON THE 3RD."
THERE'S A PHOTO ATTACHED TOO.
OHH!
UM... BOSS,
ARE THE ORDERS READY?
!
SEEMS LIKE IT. SHE SAID HER HUSBAND'S ALREADY HEAD OVER HEELS.
I've never met him though.
IF I HAD TO SAY ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, I THINK SHE LOOKS LIKE HER DAD.

AH, SORRY, GO AHEAD AND TAKE THEM.
HURRY UP WITH MY COFFEE TOO, YAJIMA.
MAN, YOU TOO, OTOUMI...
THAT SNEAKING AROUND IS DISGUSTING.
OKAY! I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
SORRY.
ACTUALLY, A FRIEND FROM OUR HOMETOWN WAS ANNOUNCING THE BIRTH OF HER CHILD...

SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT ON THE BLENDED COFFEE, AKIKAWA-SAN.
WELL I SHOULDN'T INTERRUPT YUKARI'S WORK ANYMORE THAN I HAVE, SO I'LL GO BACK
NO...WITH ALL THESE CUSTOMERS AROUND...
THE FRIEND YOU HELPED US PICK OUT A WEDDING GIFT FOR THAT TIME.
WHAT?
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST SAID HAPPY NEWS LIKE THAT OPENLY.
NOW WE NEED TO GO BACK TO SEE RYOKO'S KID
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT TONIGHT... WHEN TO GO BACK HOME
AH.
WAIT A SEC, OTOUMI.

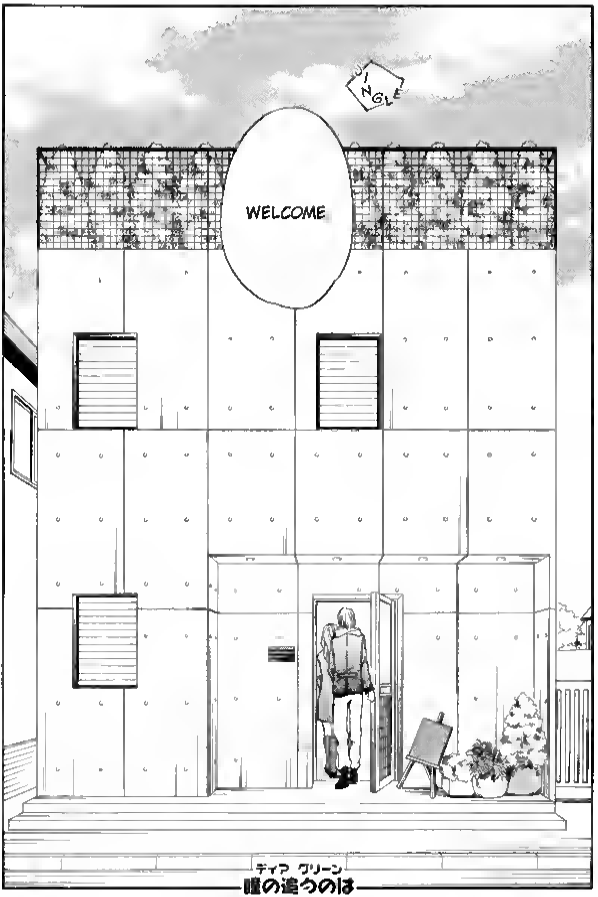
GOOD LUCK WITH WORK.
OKAY.

YOU TOO


THEY'RE FINALLY BECOMING INTIMATE PRETTY OPENLY NOW...
!!!
BOSS AND OTOUMI-SAN ARE REALLY CLOSE, AREN'T THEY—

I WONDER IF I SHOULD CHECK...
WHAT WORK I HAVE ON MY SCHEDULE NOW...

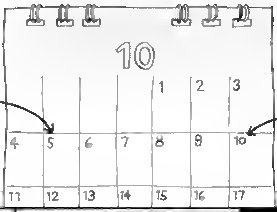
BURMA BLENDED COFFEE AND ROYAL MILK TEA... GOT IT.
ANOTHER ORDER.
BURMA BLENDED COFFEE AND ROYAL MILK TEA.



ディア グリーン
嘆の追うのは

・・END・・

たんじょう日


10
Today
Yukari's Birthday
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17

then
a few days —

?
?

10
1 2 3
4 5 6 7 8 9 10
Today, the day

I made it.
SILVER CLAY
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

初出
第12話 ルチルvol 15(2006年11月)
第13話 ルチルvol 16(2007年1月)
第14話 ルチルvol 18(2007年5月)
第15話 ルチルvol 19(2007年7月)
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第19話 ルチルvol 25(2008年7月)
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第21話 ルチルvol 30(2009年5月)
あとがき 描き下ろし
たんしょう日 描き下ろし

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友人として、恋人として、ずっと一緒にいた親と幼馴染。
同居してから数年、久しぶりに二人で飲みに行くが
それぞれ、家族や将来のことで悩み始めて…。

それでも「互いに以外は考えられない」と
気持ちを確かめ合ったふたりは――。
長期連載の人気シリーズ、遂に完結！